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ANSWER AND DEFENCE

OF

PATRICE DE JANON,

LATE PROFESSOR OF SPANISH AT WEST POINT,

TO THE REPORT AND STATEMENTS

TO

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

JULY 16, 1864,

BY GENERAL RICHARD DELAFIELD.



WASHINGTON, D. C.:

McGILL & WITHEROW, PRINTERS AND STEREOTYPERS.

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WASHINGTON CITY, Oct. 1, 1864.

To the President of the United States :

SIR: To beg to be heard in defence of our reputation and character is, I believe, one of the most humiliating requests that the vicissitudes of fortune can exact of us. To defend our material rights and interests may move our mental and physical energies, but to resist that which attacks our honor, appeals to the powers of the soul. But when these two propositions become combined in one death struggle, while the doubts of the contest last, it renders the *living* rather the *darker side of the grave*.

It is with feelings approximating this extremity that I herein venture to review, and refute, as I think I shall, to the utmost satisfaction of your Excellency's calm and solid judgment, the communication addressed to you under date of July 16, by General Richard Delafield, pretending to inform you of the reasons why I, without complaint or reason stated to me, was dismissed from the Military Academy at West Point, as Professor of Spanish.

In entering upon the discharge of this oppressive duty, I shall aim to remember the respective positions of all parties, and not allow the sensibility of deep and burning wrong to divert me from the path of fairness and truth.

It is proper, I think, to note the fact, though such is not disclosed in the report of General Delafield, that none of the matters therein referred to were of record or known to the War Department at the time of my dismissal, nor even so long afterwards as my arrival in this city, begging to know the cause of my summary degradation from my official position. I was then, upon inquiry, informed that there were of record no charges or complaints against me. Being a commissioned officer, I was equally surprised and pained to learn I was thus denied the only practical means of vindicating myself from the wrong to which, I saw in a glance, I was inevitably consigned.

In hopes to secure a suspension of the order until I could be granted some sort of a trial, as a *favor*, if not a *right* due to an officer, I was tendered by the official corps of the Academy at West Point with the following communication addressed to the honorable Secretary of War :

WEST POINT, Sept. 17, 1863.

Hon. E. M. STANTON, *Secretary of War*:

DEAR SIR: The undersigned having learned that it has seemed proper to you to direct that the Professor of Spanish be immediately discharged from the service, desire respectfully and unofficially to express to you their lively sympathy for one thus suddenly cut off from his only means of support. Mr. de Janon has been in the service of the Government at West Point upwards of seventeen years, and during the last six, as Professor of the Spanish language.

In all this time his deportment has been that of a gentleman, zealous and faithful in the discharge of his duties. In view of this, and the distressing circumstances of deprivation to which he and his family will be subjected by an immediate execution of your order, they venture to express the hope that you may be able to afford him an opportunity, by its suspension, to vindicate himself from the charges that may have led to your action in his case.

A. H. BOWMAN,
Superintendent Military Academy.

H. B. CLITZ,
Lieut. Col. Commandant Corps of Cadets.

C. C. BOYNTON,
Captain and Adjutant.

H. AGNEL,
Prof. of French.

ROBERT W. WEIR,
Prof. of Drawing.

J. W. FRENCH, *Prof.*,
(To all but the words "by its suspension.")
S. V. BENET,

—— HARWOOD,
Capt. Ord.

Capt. Engineers.
J. M. WHITTEMORE,

Capt. Ord.
J. C. BRADFORD,

Capt. Ord. Dep't.
H. HASCALL,

Capt. 5th Art'y.

S. LORAIN,
Capt. 8th Art'y.
 H. E. HASBROUCK,
First Lieutenant.
 R. E. EASTMAN,
First Lieut. 6th Inf'y.
 HENRY B. NOBLE,
First Lieut. 8th U. S. Art'y.
 CHARLES C. PARSONS,
First Lieut. 4th U. S. Art'y.
 SAMUEL CUSHING,
Capt. &c., Acting Signal Officer.
 E. ELDERKIN,
1st Art'y.
 ALFRED SMITH,
First Lieut. 8th Inf'y.
 ——— ABADIE,
Surg. U. S. A.
 LAWRENCE SHELTON,
Assist. Surg.

This communication, begging common justice in my behalf, did not produce the desired effect. I was soon made to feel that I was mistaken in supposing, that by virtue of my commission or position as an officer, I had acquired thereby any rights, even as a man, that need necessarily be respected; that even, viewed as a culprit, I had not the ordinary indulgence shown to such, of being told of my dereliction of duty, or wherein I had offended, or who had complained.

Prostrated in feeling and humiliated to shame at such denial, I had nothing left but the whispers of hope; that by showing this communication to others I might strike an approving influence in some manly breast, that would be moved to secure me at least a hearing. Hence it was that I showed the paper signed, as above stated, to some of those who knew me; and many were earnest in their condemnation of the treatment I had received. It was the exhibition on my part of this letter from *nearly all* the officers at West Point that affords the starting point for General Delafield's unwarranted and unfair assault upon me in his report made to your Excellency, as will be shown presently.

But before I do so, I beg to invite your attention to one very important fact, which cannot fail to exhibit the tendency to misapprehension, if not perversion of meaning, placed or forced upon this request and recommendation in my behalf by the officers of the Academy and three of the Professors. It is this: At the time that communication was written and signed it was not known, either to myself or to those who signed it, why I was dismissed. Neither was I nor they advised nor did I suppose that it was on the ground of alleged or even insinuated incompetency to teach Spanish, my native tongue. Hence there was no motive or reason for them to consider or express an opinion on that subject. They only asked that I might have the bare justice of a trial. But General Totten was pleased to regard it as a testimonial of my ability to teach Spanish, when that officer saw fit to interrogate those who signed the communication in my favor, whether they meant to endorse my capacity as a teacher of Spanish. I, of course, was not apprised of such inquiries being pressed upon those who had done me a kindness. Nor do I know, nor is it shown, in what language these inquiries were couched, or what was the full answer of the parties. Like the act of my dismissal, I was still being tried behind my back. I was for the first time apprised that I was the victim of such injustice by the report of General Delafield, which says:

"As late as October, 1863, the late Chief Engineer made a special inquiry as to the fitness of Mr. de Janon to fill the professorship of Spanish. He called upon Col. Bowman, Maj. Clitz, Professors French, Agnel, and Weir, in explanation of a letter signed by them that was being used by the friends of Mr. De Janon as an evidence that he possessed the requisite qualifications for the place of Professor of Spanish, and might be restored thereto with due regard to the welfare and standing of the Institution, and asked them to state whether they intended by that paper to signify professor de Janon's possession of the necessary qualifications for the professorial chair.

"Col. Bowman wrote quite decidedly in the negative; so did Professor Chaplain French. Professor Weir thought the requirements of Professor de Janon were not such as should belong to a Professor in our national school.

"Professor Agnel stated that he most certainly did not view the paper in question as a professional testimonial. Col. Clitz did not consider himself a good enough Spanish scholar to judge of Mr. de Janon's ability to teach the Spanish language.

"The other Professors, Church, Kendrick, and Mahan, who did not sign the paper referred to, were asked by the Superintendent, 'Do you believe Professor de Janon competent to discharge the duties of the Spanish Department?' and their answer, No! agreed with Colonel Bowman's opinion.

"Professor Bartlett was asked the same question, who replied, 'I am not acquainted with the Spanish language, and my only means of judging of his qualifications are in the exhibition of his classes at the examinations, and judging from these, I am constrained to say I do.'

"General Totten then stated, 'that the appointment, in the first place, of this gentleman to the Spanish chair was heard with surprise and concern by very many who had the welfare of the Academy at heart; since then, so far as opinions as to qualifications to that chair have reached me, they have with few exceptions, and those not of a commanding nature, concurred with the large majority of those now laid before you.'

"General Totten concluded his letter with the recommendation in a very important interest of the Institution, 'that the action already taken in the case be adhered to.'

"Upon these statements it would seem that Mr. de Janon was considered incompetent to fill the professorship of Spanish, and, for the interest of the Academy, should no longer be continued in it."

Now let dates help us in the proper understanding of this matter :

The order of my dismissal was dated in the War Department, 14th September, 1863. I was apprised of it on the 16th, and the communication addressed to the Honorable Secretary of War, above referred to, was written and signed on the 17th September, 1863—just three days after the order of my dismissal. And General Delafield tells us that it was not until "*as late as October, 1863, the late Chief Engineer made special inquiry as to the fitness of Mr. de Janon to fill the Professorship of Spanish.*"

It is thus admitted by General Delafield that it was *after* my dismissal from office, and *not before*, that "*the late Chief Engineer made special inquiries as to the fitness of Mr. de Janon,*" &c. I surely am not rash, then, in submitting to the good sense of your Excellency, that this gratuitous *post mortem* examination and *ex parte* inquest held over my official remains could not have been the weapons used to slay me, or have been the cause of my execution. I was then more

than one month dead, so far as my official existence was concerned, or even so far as my honor or character as a man was involved, in the eyes of those who had secretly assassinated and destroyed me. Let your Excellency view me as a culprit—as one who, instead of “ever having been faithful and diligent in the discharge of my duties,” as I shall offer abundant proof to show, had committed some crime, and still you cannot, as a just Chief Magistrate of final appeal, fail to stamp with disapproval such a pretended cause of my dismissal from an office that I had filled for over six years, to the satisfaction of each successive Board of Visitors.

Ponder the fact for a moment. If the cause of my summary dismissal on the 14th September, 1863, was, as set forth in the report of General Delafield, why was it deemed proper to institute “special inquiry” as late as October afterwards? If the fact of my pretended incompetency was really known in the War Department as early as September, before I was dismissed, why was it deemed requisite to ascertain that fact again in October, *after* the decision was made against me? Or was it, in truth, because there was *no* such evidence or information known to the War Department, and the interest manifested by my surprised circle of friends created anxiety in the minds of my destroyers, not for me, but for themselves, that prompted them to give me the benefit of this openly acknowledged *ex post facto* investigation, which supplies these pretended causes of my dismissal, as marshalled forth still ten months later by General Delafield, to wit, on the 16th of July, 1864.

And why could not I have been apprised of these inquiries made by “the Chief Engineer as late as October, 1863?” I was then here seeking a hearing, and a suspension of the order for my dismissal until I could be heard. It was for this generous, not to say just purpose, that the respectable officers of the Academy signed the request to the Honorable Secretary of War. The parties seeking to perfect my ruin, already recorded, knew I was here for the purpose of a hearing, and knew that I held the petition referred to requesting it, for it is used as the starting point of their after inquiries, which refers to its contents, and names some of the signers of it, and still could not allow me the humble privilege of knowing what they were about; but, on the contrary, were in secret, collecting material upon a perverted meaning of that letter, under the pressure of superior official mandate, which a crafty hand could mould into an assault on me, if my perseverance, after those who robbed me of character,

living and home, should ever bring me to this privilege of a hearing. Is not such a conclusion warranted by the naked facts before us?

But as it is my lot to be forced to meet just such an extraordinary state of the case, and as the question of my competency as a teacher of Spanish has been created out of this petition, merely asking a fair trial and hearing of the causes of my dismissal, I beg to offer something in the way of proof in support of my competency.

It will be observed that the inquiries of October, 1863, addressed to the parties named by General Totten, was to ascertain whether they intended by that paper (the one asking a hearing for me) to signify Professor de Janon's possession of the necessary qualifications for that professorial chair. The answers drawn are necessarily of a negative character. Neither of the parties named, except Professor Agnel, understood Spanish, and he does not say I am not qualified to teach that language, and he could not, for he would not falsify himself, and I can prove his statements to the contrary. But suppose it otherwise; I beg to offer the testimonials of competent recognized Spanish scholars, as to my knowledge of the language, and ability to teach properly.

NEW YORK, *Agosto 4, de 1856.*

Habiendo tenido una conversacion con el portador de esta, Mr. Patrice de Janon, certifico que su pronunciacion y estilo son perfectamente castizos, y tales cuales se usan en la antigua Castilla. En confirmacion de lo cual firmo lo presente en la fecha susodicha.

MARIANO VELAZQUEZ.

de la Cadena.

Translation of the above letter by Professor P. de Janon.

NEW YORK, *August 4, 1856.*

Having had a conversation with the bearer, Mr. Patrice de Janon, I certify that his pronunciation and style are perfectly pure, and are those in use in old Castile. In confirmation of this, I hereby affix my signature on the above mentioned date.

MARIANO VELAZQUEZ,

de la Cadena.

The author of the above letter is Professor of the Spanish language in Columbia College, New York, and also the

author of a Spanish grammar and dictionary now in general use.
P. DE JANON.

NEW YORK, *August 28, 1856.*

SIR: On my first visit to West Point I had the pleasure of becoming acquainted with Mr. P. de Janon, and in the opportunities which I have since had to see him, I have been able to ascertain that he possesses a perfect knowledge of the Spanish language, which is his native language, and that he was fully competent to teach it. As I learn that this gentleman desires to obtain the professorship of that language in the Military Academy, it has occurred to me that a few lines to you upon the subject might be useful to him. I have therefore ventured this letter, confiding upon the personal kindness and attention you have been pleased constantly to bestow upon me.

I remain, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

MANUEL ROBLES PEZUELA.

To his Excellency the PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington.

NEW YORK, *December 30, 1857.*

I, the undersigned, a Professor of the Spanish language and literature in the New York Free Academy, do certify that I am acquainted with Professor P de Janon, a native Spaniard, and that I judge him perfectly well qualified to teach the Spanish language. He is abundantly entitled, both as a gentleman and a teacher, to the confidence of all who may need his services.

AGUSTIN J. MORALES.

WASHINGTON CITY, D. C, *August 16, 1856.*

His Excellency FRANKLIN PIERCE,

President of the United States:

SIR: Understanding that a Professor of the Spanish language will be appointed for the West Point Academy, I beg leave to recommend for that position Mr. P. de Janon, a

gentleman with whom I have had frequent correspondence in that language, and whom I have the pleasure to know personally. I consider him fully able and qualified for the discharge of the duties devolving upon a teacher of that language. His pronunciation and grammatical knowledge of the Spanish I consider perfect, and certainly not surpassed by any other individual who may profess a knowledge of the language. I have the honor, sir, to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

MIGL. A. OTERO.

In further support of my qualifications as a teacher of Spanish, and also as proof against the unfairness or even pretence of truth in the statements of General Delafield, which is set forth in the 6th paragraph of his pretended cause of my dismissal, in these words: "General Totten then stated that the appointment in the first place of this gentleman to the Spanish chair was heard with surprise, and even concern, by very many who had the welfare of the Academy at heart. Since then, so far as opinions as to the qualifications to that chair have reached me, they have, with a few exceptions, and those not of a commanding nature, concurred with a majority of those now laid before you."

From this it would seem that the "*surprise and concern*" with which a "*very many*" who heard of my appointment to the chair of Spanish in July, 1857, is made part of the ground for my dismissal from that position in September, 1863; and that since then (1857) all the accumulation of opinions was against me. Who these "*very many*" were, or who uttered the "*opinions which reached*" General Totten, I am not, and never was permitted to know. It is only since my secret condemnation that they are thrown upon my persecuted head in the shape that is now my unpleasant duty to notice them. It is painful to any gentleman to feel compelled to assert his own merits, and though destroyed as I am, I shall not do so now. But I with pride can submit the following unbiassed evidence to totally overthrow this part of General Delafield's report:

WEST POINT, N. Y., *March 19, 1857.*

MR. P. DE JANON :

DEAR SIR: I take pleasure in testifying to your perfect ability to speak, read, and write the Spanish language.

This I consider myself qualified to pronounce on, as I have attained considerable proficiency in the language by a course of study under you, and have had abundant opportunities to form a judgment.

I remain, yours, &c.,

JAS. ST. C. MORTON,
First Lieut. Engineers.

NEW YORK, *September 2, 1856.*

I take great pleasure in saying that I think Mr. de Janon fully qualified to act as a Professor of the Spanish language at West Point, and entitled to the confidence and respect of all high-minded men as an honorable and accomplished gentleman.

FRANCIS L HAWKES.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
August 18, 1856.

SIR: My friend, Patrice de Janon, Esq., is an applicant for the appointment of Professor of Spanish in the U. S. Military Academy at West Point, a situation for which his thorough knowledge of that language, being a Spaniard by birth, and his gentlemanly deportment, admirably adapt him.

His being connected with the Military Academy (eleven years) has secured him the good-will of the officers of that institution. From my personal acquaintance with him, I feel great pleasure in adding my testimony to that offered by his other friends in his behalf, and to express a hope that you will look favorably upon his application and confer the appointment upon him.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. H. BOWMAN,
Capt. of Engineers.

We join with great pleasure in the request that the appointment may be conferred on Mr. de Janon.

JAMES C. JONES,
A. O. P. NICHOLSON.
U. S. S.

His Excellency FRANKLIN PIERCE,
President of the United States.

We concur with pleasure in the foregoing recommendation.

SAMUEL HOUSTON,
BEN. FITZPATRICK,
R. W. JOHNSON,
T. F. CLINGMAN,
JOS. S. WILSON.
U. S. S.

Extract from a letter of Lieut. Houston to Lieut. Morton.

December 13, 1857.

In your letter, speaking of our friend Prof. de Janon, you ask what impression I derived of his capabilities from a visit to his section room. That impression cannot be conveyed more clearly than in a remark I made to a gentleman shortly after, "that had I been introduced to the section room without knowing who the instructor was, I should have supposed that he had been teaching ten years." A familiarity with the subject and a facility of illustrating were exhibited which could hardly have been expected of one who had taught only a week, and which many could not acquire with the experience of years.

The demeanor of the cadets during the recitation was respectful and attentive, knowing by experience some of the difficulties of teaching, especially of teaching cadets. I was surprised that the Professor had so soon overcome the first and most important difficulties of his position, *i. e.*, the very natural want of confidence in communicating knowledge; for this, I believe, is felt by all. I observed, however, none of it. Everything was stated clearly and distinctly, and explained in such a manner that there could be no mistake. When I left the section room I said to myself, if I desired to study Spanish I should wish no better teacher than Prof. de Janon.

J. C. HOUSTON.

MILITARY ACADEMY, WEST POINT,
March 27, 1857.

I am unable to express an opinion respecting Mr. de Janon's knowledge of the Spanish language; not knowing that language I am unable to judge of his proficiency. Mr.

de Janon has been connected with this Institution for twelve years, and has always maintained the reputation of a high-toned gentleman.

W. D. HARDEE,
Col. Commanding.

WEST POINT, Nov. 28, 1856.

Mr. Patrice de Janon, sword-master in the Military Academy, has expressed a desire to have from me a testimonial of his social position at this place, and I take great pleasure in giving it, deeming him, as I do, to be a gentleman of education and refinement, and entitled, as a member of our society, to my respect and consideration.

W. H. C. BARTLETT.

To Mr. DE JANON, *present.*

WEST POINT, Nov. 29, 1856.

MY DEAR SIR: Though I know nothing of your acquaintance with Spanish, except through your full testimonials, nor of your ability to instruct and direct in that department, I can yet testify to what I do know, that I have ever found you an amiable and courteous gentleman, and that during the eleven years of your residence here you have won such general regard among the officers, that they speak of you in the most favorable terms.

Yours, very truly,

J. W. FRENCH.

Mr. PATRICE DE JANON.

These persons, it seems, were neither surprised nor alarmed for the safety of the Academy at my appointment to the professorship of Spanish; on the contrary, they used their exertions to place me there. Lieut. Morton, who lately fell in his country's cause before Petersburg, was then attached to the Academy at West Point, and Col. A. H. Bowman was the late Superintendent, and is the same whose statement General Delafield makes prominent in his report against me. Professors Bartlett and French were then, as now, members of the Academic board, and General Hardee was the officer commanding the corps of cadets. The other

persons who supported my appointment were then in high position in the Government. They, of course, in the estimation of my accusers, had not the good of the Academy at heart. I give their names, however, and challenge General Delafield to name an equal, or any respectable number of persons who, at that time "expressed surprise or concern at my appointment."

Besides these proofs, I refer to the successive reports of the Boards of Visitors, none of whom ever found fault with the various examinations of my classes, though I am aware means were used, and often strenuous efforts were made, to produce complaint by those who opposed my appointment, and have ever sought my removal, to which proceedings General Delafield knows he was no stranger. But the Boards of Visitors, in every instance, sustained me, in spite of efforts to the contrary. I maintain that the official acts of these respective Boards of Visitors are to be received as conclusive evidence of their real opinion, and that General Delafield has no right to impugn both their veracity and official integrity in the manner his report to your Excellency would imply. On this subject I shall say more hereafter.

Had General Delafield been pleased to rest his report at the point to which I have quoted him, though it was an *ex parte* proceeding, and only discloses a syllable here and there of what the persons therein named did say when officially arraigned by General Totten, as late as October, 1863, to state if "they intended by that paper" (the one signed by the officers of the Academy) to signify Mr. de Janon's possession of the necessary qualifications for the professorial chair"—I say, if the General had stopped here, I should be willing to rest my vindication upon the evidence already submitted, and abide the decision of any impartial judge.

But it seems General Delafield was not content to let me off upon General Totten's supply of *ex parte*, *ex post facto* proof demanded from some of my co-professors after my dismissal, but could not consider his work of destruction well done until he plied me with a fine supply of his own invention, which imposes upon me and forces me to burden your Excellency with a new and still wider, though totally irrelevant field of investigation. I shall allow General Delafield to induct us into this retrospective review of my personal and official character. He says:

"I now go back to an earlier period of Mr. de Janon's ser-

vices, when I had a personal knowledge of the manner in which he discharged his duties, and when I was clearly of the opinion that he was incompetent to teach the Spanish language, and had not a sufficient knowledge of the English to explain himself and impart his ideas to the cadets, and could not command their respect sufficiently to control them in the recitation room, the result of which was marked disrespect to him and insubordination among his pupils."

I respectfully submit to your Excellency, after the language above volunteered towards me by General Delafield, so totally irrelevant to the inquiry addressed to him by your Excellency, through Mr. George D. Blakey, to report the facts and reasons for my dismissal, as of record in the Department, and not what was his, then or previous, personal opinions on the subject, that I shall be pardoned for dealing pretty plainly with General Delafield in what I shall say hereafter. I have ever made it a rule, while at West Point, and indeed through life, to bear myself and to speak with marked respect of my official superiors, equals, or inferiors. My education as a gentleman prompts me to this course, even above my respect for discipline. Indeed, about the only thing General Delafield does not brand me with, either directly or by implication, is a want of civil and professional deportment. But in the part of his report to which I now reply, he has probed me to the heart, and in that instinct of self-preservation common alike to human nature, I am constrained to brand many of the statements of General Delafield with positive falsehoods towards me, and with false dealings, and a design to deceive your Excellency.

I have now committed myself to some strong language, and the sequel will show how far I am justified.

General Delafield says :

"In March, 1857, I was required to ascertain and report upon the fitness of Mr. de Janon, then Sword Master, for the Spanish professorship. My report on that occasion was that he had many disqualifications, and no one superior qualification ; that I had known him only since Sept., 1856. One officer only, of the many I consulted, entertained a favorable opinion of his abilities as a Spanish Professor, and he stated his belief that Mr. de Janon could not construe and parse correctly a page of Spanish verse, but he could probably do so with prose."

General Delafield does not tell your Excellency from what official source he "was requested" to make the inquiries referred to. I was aware that General Delafield, who had then manifested personal dislike to me, did in 1857, make a fierce attack upon me, and did oppose with all his power my appointment to the Spanish Professorship, but I have only learned from his report that he "*was requested*" to do so, and since seeing his statement I have exhausted all the means in my power, through all known official mediums, of commanding the Superintendent at West Point, and I can neither find nor hear of any such official order or "requirement" being pressed upon General Delafield at that time.

I therefore deny the truth of his statement, and challenge him to produce the order from any official source, that he was bound to obey, "requiring" him "to ascertain and report upon the fitness of Mr. de Janon, THEN SWORD MASTER, for the Spanish Professorship."

But as stated, it is true that General Delafield, then Colonel Delafield, did make a most gratuitous attack on me, at the time I was applying for the Spanish Professorship, but his report was so devoid of facts, and so manifestly malicious, that the then President and Secretary of War, and also the Committee on Military Affairs of the Senate, paid no respect to it. It is equally true that Major Platt, then assistant in the French Department, did likewise make an assault upon me, and addressed a disparaging letter to Senator Wilson, of Massachusetts, to whom I refer for the truth of my statement. But Major Platt's attack, like that of Col. Delafield, failed of its object, both being wholly overcome by the abundant good and competent testimonials that were produced in my favor, and I was appointed and unanimously confirmed by the Senate.

Thus my triumph was and is my greatest offence in the eyes of General Delafield and Major Platt, and I and my family this day suffer for it.

It is true I was "*Sword Master*" at West Point, as stated by General Delafield; but was I for that reason ignorant of my native language, and disqualified to teach it? And if feeling myself competent, I aspired to a higher position, did I justify the assault thus volunteered upon me by General Delafield and Major Platt?

I will here remark, that it is a misfortune, to some extent, to this whole country, that a strong feeling of caste and exclusiveness exists throughout the Academic Board at West

Point. And this poisonous and contracted sentiment is radiated from there but too strongly throughout the military circle of the army, as, I doubt not, your Excellency has had good reason to observe. But entering upon the discharge of my duties as teacher of Spanish, I sought not to notice or feel offended at what my previous knowledge of this infirmity of military caste and rank had taught me to have been engrafted upon West Point.

But I soon discovered that I was bound to offend General Delafield, Professor Mahan and several others, and to muddy the waters of caste and rank to their taste, at however humble a station down the stream I paused to quench my thirst. Here commenced my misfortunes, and I am indebted to the generous instincts of General Delafield for its steady visitation upon me. It was this knowledge and conviction of the facts that made me feel sick at heart when I was apprized that my first and fiercest assailant was installed as my judge, and was placed between my humble self and your Excellency's justice. I knew I would suffer, and it is even so. But I will proceed :

General Delafield says, "My report on that occasion was that he had many disqualifications and no one superior qualification."

I had "many disqualifications." What does General Delafield mean by this statement? and what means had he or any one else of knowing how far I was or was not qualified to teach Spanish?

In the first place, I was then (in March, 1857) teacher of fencing, or "sword master," as General Delafield says, and was only applying for the professorship of Spanish. In what earthly way, then, could I disclose to General Delafield those "many disqualifications" to teach Spanish, even had he been competent to judge? and in the second place, the then Colonel Delafield was about as much qualified to form a correct opinion of the Spanish language as he was of one who could teach the Russian dialect, and is no better informed of it to-day. But he was then willing to make a "report," as he says, against my ability, which it seems was not respected by his superiors, and avails himself of his official position to repeat its contents now, seven years later to your Excellency. Could ranker unfairness or graver offence and indecency be evinced towards a subordinate officer by one decorated with the star of a general?

He says: "I had known him (me) only since 1856; one officer only of the many I consulted entertained a favorable opinion of his ability as a Spanish professor."

There was but one officer at West Point in 1856 who could speak Spanish, and that one, General Delafield says, "entertained a favorable opinion of my ability as a Spanish professor," while the "many other officers" he consulted, like himself, knew nothing about the Spanish language, and neither he nor they knew whether I could either speak or read it. Were I this day to address to General Delafield an ordinary note, inviting him to dine with your Excellency, and he had to wait for his dinner until he read it, he would be well starved before he could learn its contents. Still he is presumptuous enough to then, (1856-7,) as now, attempt to criticise my knowledge of my native tongue.

The report further says:

"Another officer intimately acquainted with him, and possessing a knowledge of Spanish, and the system by which cadets must be taught, enumerated to me several gross errors made by cadets on being examined, which were allowed to pass as correct by the Professor; and in one instance, on a cadet being caused to alter his exercise in consequence of the Professor pronouncing it erroneous, the cadet entered into an argument, and maintained the correctness of his exercise and the error of his Professor. This officer further stated that the examination of the class in Spanish was of the most superficial character, and even that was enough to show that the pupils had not received proper instruction, and that it was impossible to hear them and resist the conclusion that those young men had not had justice done them. He further said, "I have a very strong opinion that Mr. de Janon is entirely unfit for the place he occupies," and in forming this opinion he stated nothing but what he knew of his own knowledge."

This statement embraces the most palpable unfairness. Why not name the officer so that *his* qualifications as a Spanish scholar may be weighed against my own? Why say "*another officer*" said so and so? May I not even at this date know my accusers? Nor am I told, when thus accused, of what error, or anything else whereby I can offer correction. I therefore pronounce this whole statement a falsehood, and challenge General Delafield to name the "*another officer.*" and produce the facts of the examination referred to. He dare not attempt it.

I never made it my business to play spy over my brother professors, but I here venture the assertion that no exami-

nation in language ever did take place where errors may and did not occur which the teacher, however great his capacity, did not notice. I often observed such errors in Professor Agnel's examination in French at West Point; but it was accident, and neither I nor any one else will question the superior ability of Professor Agnel to teach French. Then why this palpable unfairness to me? Why make this assertion under cover of this symbolistic authority of "another officer," whose name or qualifications we do not know, or the examination at which it occurred? How can General Delafield say that *I* was not right, and his "another officer" wholly wrong?

But the report further says :

"Another, who was more intimate with Mr. de Janon, told him of his inability and deficiency as an instructor, and informed me he was satisfied he could not teach the language as English and French were being taught at the Academy, and did not think he possessed that knowledge of the grammar or philosophy of any language to entitle him to the professorship."

Here again we have the statement from "*another*" who was more intimate with Mr. de Janon. I look this statement square in the face and pronounce it false. Whoever this "*another*" is, I pronounce it a mere invention to assail me in the meanest contemptible manner. No officer, if such is meant, at West Point, ever said such a thing to me, nor do I know of any *officer*, unless it were General Delafield, who would use the word "*Philosophy* of any language," as I know of no such word in the lexicon. PHILOLOGY of language is a word known to me, but not the word "PHILOSOPHY of any language."

This, however, is an error which one even as learned, accurate, and critical as General Delafield may commit and not correct it. I shall not for that trivial reason, however, be so unjust as to dispute that General Delafield might not be able to teach English.

General Delafield further says :

"My own experience as to his inaptitude satisfied me that he could not command the respect of the cadets, and could not govern them.

"Of twenty-eight reports he had made of the improprieties of cadets while under his instructions, twenty-three were

positively denied, and five only admitted to be correct. This arose, I consider, from his inability to give his reports in English that would cover or define the offences.

"During the winter of 1856-'57, I experienced much difficulty in sustaining Mr. de Janon in authority, with the exertions of the commandants, at the risk of combined insubordination.

"Throwing gloves about the fencing room, making a noise in imitation of cats and dogs, using horsehair from the stuffing of the fencing gloves to imitate moustaches, throwing pepper on the heated stove, lying down at full length when in the section room for instruction, were all acts that Mr. de Janon brought to my notice for punishment, and correction of the cadet who had committed them, clearly indicating his unfitness for command and control over cadets. Cadets had complained to me of improper language used by Mr. de Janon, when giving them instruction. For these reasons I could not recommend, but on the contrary withhold my favorable recommendation of Mr. de Janon as Professor of Spanish."

The matter in these four paragraphs, it will be seen, take date in 1856-7, and what can be the object of General Delafield in resurrecting them in his report, even if they were true, is more than my sense of either propriety or justice can conceive. I was then "Sword Master," and not teacher of Spanish. I have no recollection at this date of the particulars, and am at a loss to conceive how it happens that General Delafield has. Any discredit that is justly reflected upon me at this remote date by either the facts, if they be such, or their recital by General Delafield under the present circumstances, I humbly submit to. I pass them over to your Excellency's better judgment.

The report further says:

"In August, 1857, Prof. de Janon submitted to the Academic Board his reasons for recommending the use of certain text books, stating that he considered the teaching of a modern language to be impeded rather than aided by a close study of a grammar. In this proposition, after much discussion, he was overruled, by a vote of the board of six to three."

This may be a very grave matter, as General Delafield has reported it. I only ask that it be noted that in August, 1857,

I had just been appointed Professor of Spanish, and at the time the question of the use of any particular grammar was discussed, as stated by General Delafield, I had not as yet entered on the discharge of my duties. I preferred the Velazquez grammar for what I deemed good reasons, and after some discussion, all of which was amicable and respectful, it was voted, *six to three*, for retaining both; but I little expected ever to hear this fact reported to my prejudice as a teacher of Spanish. But the General shows I was not alone in my choice, as *three* voted with and *six* against me. Has General Delafield branded those three for their votes also? And who can say the *three* were not right and the *six* wrong? I am sure General Delafield cannot say so, for he knows nothing about either Velazquez's or any other Spanish grammar.

General Delafield reports further:

"On the 1st, 6th, and 16th April, 1859, a cadet under Mr. de Janon was reported for certain improprieties in the recitation room. In the case of 1st April, the cadet, in attempting to excuse himself, charged against the Professor, 'That he allowed the majority of the class (section) to talk to him at the same time on a subject that related in no way to the lesson; the subject gave rise to the most boisterous mirth, (relating to a 'fiddling story,') and that such stories were told by the Professor, calculated only to excite mirth.'"

As this, too, is made a count in the General's official indictment against me, I presume I must plead to it, ridiculous as it is. This was Cadet Rodgers, whose testimony General Delafield uses on a large scale, as will be seen hereafter. On the occasion now referred to, the cadet asked me if Spanish could be learned in six lessons. I explained by reciting the story of a person who inquired of a music teacher if the violin could be learned in six lessons. The answer was yes, and the six lessons on the violin were given, but the pupil protested he still could not play. The master answered, I have only given you the rudiments in your six lessons, you must now go study and practice. I said such was the same with Spanish; that six lessons might point out the rudiments, but that study and practice could alone impart a practical knowledge of the language.

But General Delafield notes this from an unruly cadet, resting under reprimand, and forces the inference borrowed

from this cadet, that I designed not to illustrate, by telling this anecdote, but intended it "only to excite mirth."

If this is a fair inference, or warranted by the facts as stated, I must, for the satisfaction of General Delafield, even at this remote date, express my deep regret at indulging in the innocence of attempting to illustrate a question asked by a cadet by telling an anecdote.

But does not the disclosure of this matter by the General, also prove his espionage to find fault with me, and may not his encouragement thus shown to the cadet afford some clue to the repeated improprieties of that same cadet, Rodgers?

The report further says:

"In the case of 6th April the same cadet charged the Professor with 'allowing books of every kind to be read in the section room; that while the class was studying Artillery, at least one third of the members of the section were in the habit of carrying this book there and studying it during the hours for Spanish, and that novels with glaring red backs had been taken there since he was reported, and numerous letters had been opened and read, while he was the only one reported for 'having a book in the Spanish recitation room, and using it, not pertaining to the Spanish course.' He complained that the Professor had been actuated by motives of a personal character, and referred to the members of his section for the correctness of his statement. In the case of 16th April, the same cadet charged the Professor with communicating his knowledge of the Spanish and English languages in such a manner as to lead to the belief that he is ignorant of any accurate knowledge of the grammar of either, and deficient in capacity of communicating instruction; with allowing members of the section to talk promiscuously in the section room; to go to the board and correct other cadets' exercises, and even rub them out; to tie pieces of chalk to his coat-tail, put on his hat, read all kinds of books and letters, write the Professor's name on his back with chalk, ask him what is the Spanish for 'section is dismissed,' and when he gives it to allow the section to dismiss themselves, and permits the members to stand in every possible position while on the floor; charging the reports of the Professor against himself to arise from personal dislike, and appealing to the members of the section for proof of his statements."

This statement I presume must be satisfactory to General Delafield, or it would not appear here. It will be seen, however, that it relates to matters and interviews which passed between him and Cadet Rodgers, when I was not present; nor did the General see fit to inform me of it until now. I heard then, and had reason to believe, that this ill-behaved cadet had more or less encouragement from Superintendent Delafield for his conduct, and since he admits he indulged the conversation with the cadet above referred to, I think it leaves but little doubt of the correctness of my impressions. It perhaps entertained the General about as much as the "fiddling story" did. In this he departed widely from the rule laid down in the following three reprimands administered by the General to his convenient witness, Rodgers; these three I have fortunately become possessed of, and they are as follows:

May 10, 1859.

Cadet Rodgers's explanation for a delinquency of the 1st April must be confined to the subject of the report—all that part offered by him after the words "talking to him at the time," the Superintendent cannot permit in an explanation for improper conduct on his own part; no reflections upon the Professor, and foreign to the nature of the report, can be received from the cadet in the nature of explanations for Academic delinquencies. The regulations point out the proper course for cadets to pursue in case of wrong or injustice done them, and to such Cadet R. must confine himself.

The Commandant will return to Cadet R. his excuse of the 1st April for alterations, should he desire to make any, informing him of the Superintendent's views on the subject, returning this to be filed in the Adjutant's office.

(Signed,)

R. DELAFIELD.

WEST POINT, 10th May, 1859.

Cadet R. admits his error, and attempts to justify it by repeated errors of other members of the section, and then indulges in the uncharitable inference that his Professor is actuated by feelings of a personal character. Cadet R. doubtless knows that many irregularities are committed by cadets in the section rooms not in the power of the Professors

to observe, particularly when their attention is occupied in giving instruction.

The Superintendent cannot permit such reflections upon a Professor to be received from a cadet in the shape of an excuse, and placed on file for an admitted fault committed by the cadet.

Respect for those who are laboring to qualify Cadet R. for a diploma should have prevented such uncharitable and uncourteous inferences. The Commandant will communicate the Superintendent's views on this subject to Cadet R., returning him his explanation for a report of the 6th April for alteration in conformity herewith, should he desire so to do, and return this for the files of the Adjutant's office.

(Signed,)

R. DELAFIELD.

May 10, 1859.

The Superintendent cannot permit Cadet Rodgers to offer, by way of explanation in extenuation of conduct of which he is charged by his Professor in the section room on the 16th April; numerous highly discreditable acts that he charges others with committing, as disrespectful to the Professor, as they are unbecoming young gentlemen of this Institution, and committed in a clandestine manner, rendering it impossible to be detected or observed by the Professor.

Nor can the Superintendent allow Cadet Rodgers, a pupil, to present in the same spirit, on an excuse for "trifling conduct," reflections against the competency of his Professor's abilities. Such matter as is contained in this explanation for an Academic delinquency of the 16th April cannot be received. If Cadet R. has any well-grounded personal accusations to make against his instructors, the regulations are sufficiently explicit to point out the course he has to pursue; but in no event will the Superintendent permit reflections against the Professor to be received on excuses for acts of indecorum committed out of sight of the Professor, and not reported by him.

The Commandant will return to Cadet R. his explanation of the report of the 16th April, communicating the Superintendent's views on the subject, that he may correct or hand in another excuse, if he desires. The Commandant will return this to the Adjutant's office, to be filed with the record.

(Signed,)

R. DELAFIELD.

These three reprimands would seem to be to the right effect; but it may be that Cadet Rodgers understood the General's reprimands on my account to be more for the sake of form than substance. The General, however, speaks the truth when he says that improprieties are "*committed in a clandestine manner, rendering it impossible to be detected or observed by the Professor.*" This, I think, is sufficient to exonerate me from all responsibility for their occurrence or repetition, even to the extent narrated by General Delafield. I must say, however, he mentions some things that I never saw or heard of before. But the General says Cadet Rodgers told him, and I shall not dispute it, further than to repeat I did not see it.

General Delafield at this stage of his report commences a narration of events and occurrences predicated upon what "*an officer,*" or "*another Professor,*" or "*an assistant Professor*" told him verbally, but in no instance names his informant or in any wise specifies the matter, error, or dereliction so reported to him at the time, (1859,) whereby I can know or be referred to the facts so as to meet it. But these statements of the General, spread out as they are through no less than seventeen paragraphs, shall be noticed according to what appears on their face. In the first of these in order the General says:

"In July, 1859, an officer of the Institution reported to me that he was a member of a section under Professor de Janon, of the class that was examined in June. His report confirmed the statements previously received of the unfitness of Mr. de Janon. This officer stated that he was taught Spanish by Mr. de Janon, and that it was a common practice with the members of the section to amuse themselves during a recitation by taking exceptions to the translation of words, proposing, suggesting, and discussing words of different shades and varied sense to what they knew to be correct, and that the Professor could not discriminate or determine which was correct and proper to be used."

I, of course, do not know who the "*an officer*" here referred to is. I can only say, that if General Delafield was so informed by "*an officer,*" and believed the statements, it was his official duty to notify me of the fact, and have me arraigned before a court of inquiry. I could then have met the "*an officer*" face to face, and a fair investigation would have shown whether his secret accusations were well founded

or not. But Superintendent Colonel Delafield, as in other instances which will follow, according to his own showing, failed to report, arraign, or even inform poor devoted me of these pretended faults. He seemed to think they would serve *his* purpose better some five or six years later, and then only informs me of them in the shape of an *ex post facto* indictment after I am condemned without a hearing.

The next of the General's charges in order, is—

“He also informed me that the members of another class or section had amused themselves in the presence of the Professor by taking the surveying instruments, standing as placed on the sides of the room by direction of the Professor of Mathematics, and using them in imitation of surveying the room.”

The “he” referred to is the same “*an officer*,” whose secret information is above referred to, and I give the same answer, with the further remark that I did not at any time ever see or hear of the indecorums referred to, and I do not believe it to be true. If I had seen it I should have reported the fact to Colonel Delafield, as my duty required; and I with much sorrow regret that when he was apprized of it secretly by “*an officer*,” that his sense of duty and justice to me and the welfare of the Academy (which he and General Totten seemed to have so much at heart) did not prompt *him* to inform me, so that I could with his aid have prevented a recurrence of such conduct.

Or, are we to infer that General Delafield connived at such deportment on the part of cadets in order to use their stories and the statement of “*an officer*” against me, at some remote date, as has been done? Surely it is not to be wondered at that with this implied sanction of the Superintendent by not arraigning either the cadets or myself, when the cadets knew he was apprized of their conduct, that they should make it a point to misbehave behind my back in order that themselves or “*an officer*” might report the fact to General Delafield; does he not thereby make himself privy to these indecorums with the cadets, and four-fold more culpable on account of his official position?

The General further pursuing me with this torturing species of assault, says :

"The same officer gave me several instances of errors committed by the Professor which his pupils discovered."

Again this same "*an officer*" gives several instances of errors committed by me, which my pupils discovered; but what the errors were I was neither then, nor am I now, informed, so as to show whether or not, in fact, they were "errors." As above stated, if General Delafield had discharged his full duty, he would have officially called my attention to these "errors," and if true, had me tried and dismissed from the Institution; or if false, have enabled me to vindicate myself from such gross aspersions upon my professional and personal character. But open, fair accusation, and official investigation, did not suit General Delafield or his secret informer. The General's official and moral sword was best tempered for *cutting* in the dark.

The General continues:

"At the January examination, 1858, a report was made to me by an Assistant Professor of four cadets having committed gross errors that were permitted to pass as correct, and in one case claimed to be so by Mr. de Janon.

"At the June examination of 1858, a report was made to me by a Professor, of *eight cadets* having committed gross errors that were permitted to pass as correct by Mr. de Janon.

"At the June examination of 1859, a report was made to me by a Professor, of four cadets having committed several gross errors that were admitted to pass as correct by Mr. de Janon.

"In July, 1859, another report was made to me by another Professor, detailing the circumstances noticed at the Spanish examination in June, 1859, showing several gross improprieties on the part of Mr. de Janon, and also showing that the Professor's assistant, a cadet, had the control and management of the class in order of merit, a duty that none other than the Professor should exercise.

"Another Professor reported to me in July, 1859, that in comparing the sections taught by Mr. de Janon with those instructed by his cadet assistant, the difference was very apparent, arising from a better knowledge of the construction of language on the part of the latter, and showing by strong contrasts the great necessity of having an intelligent and competent head to the department.

"In August, 1859, an Assistant Professor reported to me

that he had, on first coming to the Academy, endeavored to study Spanish under Mr. de Janon, but soon discovered that his knowledge of French and Spanish was exceedingly limited, and that he knew nothing of the grammar of either language. Instead of receiving any aid from him, he soon found him referring constantly to his pupil, (the officer,) for the orthography of words, particularly in English and Spanish. He often admitted that he knew nothing about the grammar of any language. He also acknowledged that the little he had ever attempted to learn of the English Grammar was under the instruction of Lieut. Reynolds, and the latter afterward stated to the reporting officer that he had never been able to make Mr. de Janon comprehend the difference between the nominative and objective pronoun."

Here are no less than six paragraphs; all, like those just quoted, are of a gossiping tone and purport, in which General Delafield figures as the chosen confidential recipient of things which should have transpired in my section room.

He says:

1. "At the January examination, 1858, a report was made by an *Assistant Professor*," &c.

2. "At the June examination of 1858, a report was made by a *Professor*," &c.

3. "At the June examination, 1859, a report was made to me by a *Professor*," &c.

4. "In July, 1859, *another* report was made to me by another Professor, detailing the circumstances noticed at the Spanish examination in June, 1859," &c. (Reported one month after the examination.)

5. "*Another* Professor reported to me in July, 1859," &c.

6. "In August, 1859, an *Assistant Professor* reported to me," &c.

These six reports each state matters which, if true, ought to have caused me to be brought before a court of inquiry, and were reported to General Delafield, the then Superintendent, whose official duty it was to arraign me. But, strange to say, he neither did so, nor even called my attention to these several deviations or either of them; nor does he either give the name of his informer or state whether these *confidence reports* were *verbal* or written. If written, why does not General Delafield exhibit the report itself? And if they were not in every instance written, I, in this, as in all other cases where General Delafield uses the term "*report*," or "*reporters*," protest against the use of the term,

for nothing but written statements can legally constitute "*a report*" to the Superintendent at West Point, in reference to the affairs of the Academy, and must be signed by the person so *reporting* or complaining.

If, however, it shall happen, as I believe it will, that these so-called "*reports*" have been mere casual, or even habitual conversations between persons wishing to assail me and General Delafield, who shows he had a ready disposition to hear them, and which were by him cherished with a *convenient* memory, to be cast upon my head as has been done, should, I think, cause *him* to be court-martialed for false statements and conduct unbecoming an officer and gentleman, and dismissed from the service. I therefore insist that those so-called original "*reports*," or duly certified copies, shall be produced for your Excellency's inspection, and that I shall have an opportunity to see and read them.

But I deny the truth of each and every statement in all of those pretended reports, and call upon General Delafield for the proof. If they prove to be verbal conversations noted down by him as facts, and not signed by the narrator of the matter stated by General Delafield, I pronounce them, and all such, as being infamous libels and slanders upon my character and rights as a commissioned officer.

General Delafield next says:

"The reporting officer refused his aid to Mr. de Janon in securing the Professorship of Spanish, telling him at the time that he considered him utterly incompetent to fulfil the duties."

"The reporting officer refused to give his aid to Mr. de Janon in securing the Professorship of Spanish." This statement is utterly unintelligible to me; though I have spent nearly eighteen years as a teacher in two separate capacities at West Point, I never knew such a person as "the reporting officer." And as to my ever having asked or sought the "aid" of such a person in getting my professorship, I pronounce it utterly false and slanderous. The only persons at West Point who aided me in the matter of getting the Professorship of Spanish, were Professor Bartlett, Professor French and Col. Hardee, and these gentlemen only recommended me in a social point of view, for which they have my kindest thanks. The particular aid I relied on was the testimonials of those who were competent to judge of my ability to teach the Spanish language, some of which I have

already brought to the attention of your Excellency. I insist upon knowing who General Delafield's "reporting officer" was, and I brand his statement as a falsehood.

General Delafield next pursues me with six more paragraphs, all predicated upon the statements of this "reporting officer," the first of which is as follows :

"Since Mr. de Janon has filled the position of Professor of Spanish, the reporting officer said that he had been present on a number of occasions at the examinations of the cadets in Spanish. He stated that these examinations have been so puerile and superficial, so illy, negligently, and ignorantly conducted, that he was forced to say he honestly regarded them as examinations in name only, Prof. de Janon requiring but little of the cadets at these examinations, and that little showed great defects both in the teaching and recitations."

As I was the first, and, as yet, only Professor of Spanish appointed to West Point, and as Spanish was only taught one year before my appointment by Professor Aguel, as an experiment, I am at a loss to understand who is the person by whose standard of ability my capacity is thus measured. And is it not strange that your Excellency is never informed of who the person was that made these criticisms, so that *his* ability to criticise can be judged of in determining its justice?

The next of these paragraphs in the General's report says :

"To show the puerile and superficial character of these examinations, it was only necessary to take a glance at the sentences in Ollendorff's system, which Prof. de J. required the cadets to write at the black-board. The reporting officer then gave particulars."

I respectfully submit to your Excellency if this is not an unfair species of assault upon me, when this "reporting officer" does not give the "particulars" referred to, so that we can judge whether he or I was right. Why could he not have called my attention to these "particulars" at the time, and required me to correct them?

The next two paragraphs in General Delafield's report are as follows :

"He further communicated the fact of having discovered in the text-book of one of the cadets to be examined the particular parts of the text upon which they were to be examined, being eighteen pages of the Reader, (Velazquez,) as far as the 30th lesson, and eleven verbs, with some other parts of speech.

"On the examinations the Professor adhered quite closely to this arrangement of subjects for members of the section, and the examination on the elements was of the most trifling character."

As this matter is reiterated in a subsequent paragraph, I shall treat both together.

In the next paragraph General Delafield says :

"The reporting officer further stated that in proof of the assertion that the examinations were in general illy, negligently, and ignorantly conducted by Prof. de Janon, and showed a want of proper systematic teaching, he would submit a few of the mistakes he noted in the examination of one section, the 3d, at the June examination, 1858, which mistakes were not noticed by the Professor, and gave the names of Cadets Ramseur, Bowman, Pennington, Edson, Martin, Cushing, Powell, Merritt, Marsh, Jones, and Riley, who had committed such errors, that were allowed to pass unnoticed, and hence as correct; the regulations requiring the examining Professor to note every inaccuracy. He then said that the whole examination showed conclusively, at least to his mind, that the Professor and the cadets had very confused ideas upon the subject of accentuation, which is one of very great importance in Spanish."

I will notice this with the next and last of these six paragraphs, which is as follows :

"He further stated that he was present when Cadet Wilson, in conjugating the imperfect of a verb, gave it erroneously, and some discussion ensued. The Professor of Spanish insisted that the error committed by the cadet was all right. He further stated that from his long acquaintance with Mr. de Janon he knew that he was totally unacquainted with the Spanish literature; that he was not familiar with even the names of the principal authors, and could not translate even passably well a page of one of the modern poets, and concluded by stating that he considered Mr. de Janon totally incompetent and inefficient as a Professor of Spanish."

This June examination of 1858 was my first public examination after I was appointed to the professorship of Spanish. The class was large, being some forty in number, and I had no assistant; and it seems that the burdens of my new field of labor favored me with but little charity at the hands of "the reporting officer." If I omitted to correct mistakes, it was because I was unaccustomed to conducting public examinations. But to mistake is human, and their occurrence, if as stated, should not be considered as evidence that I could not have corrected them.

In the same view of the subject I admit the error in the matter of the conjugation of the verb by Cadet Wilson. I was then going through the ordeal of my first effort at public examination. Be it remembered, however, that at the end of this very examination, the Academic Board voted my pupils proficient; and this should be deemed sufficient to prove my ability to teach even at that time, notwithstanding the mistakes noted by the "reporting officer."

General Delafield next says that—

"In August, 1859, it became my duty to come in personal communication with Professor de J., when I ascertained to my satisfaction his inability to fill the station of Professor of Spanish. At this time the course of studies had been changed from four to five years, and Professor de J. was called upon to prepare a programme for his classes. He prepared one, which, on examination, proved so defective that he withdrew it, and prepared a second, which also I found impracticable to carry into effect, when he finally made one on the notes made in a lengthy interview with me, pointing out the errors of those presented by him which he made in September, 1859."

It is here admitted by General Delafield that it was *not until August, 1859*, that he first came "in personal communication with Professor de Janon." This admission sounds a little strange, in view of the familiar manner he has been speaking of my attainments as Professor of Spanish throughout the previous part of his report, and becomes discreditable when compared with his previous admission, that he weighed my professional attainments as early as 1856-57, and understood them sufficient to report against my being appointed to the Spanish professorship when being "*required*" to do so.

But his last statement is about correct, for it is absolutely true that Colonel Delafield, in 1856-7, when he made his

gratuitous report, knew nothing whatever about my qualifications to teach Spanish or anything else. I soon had occasion, however, to feel that he was hostile to me, and this fact accounts for the vast deal of petty hearsay and gossip he has been pleased to torture me with in the course of his lengthy report made to your Excellency, now under consideration.

The General, having fixed this period, (1859,) "when he ascertained to his satisfaction my inability to fill the station of Professor of Spanish," goes on to thus give the reason why such was his then conclusion, which is the first and only chance he affords me in the whole of his assault upon me to weigh the soundness of his judgment. The reason is that I was called on to make a programme to suit the then changed course of studies, from four to five years in the Spanish department, and that I made one which he did not like; that I made another which would not work to suit him; that I then made one from ideas elicited from him, and it did work. He therefore, and *then*, concluded I could not teach the Spanish language.

To excuse this vanity, so natural to General Delafield, exhibited in his statement, does it follow that my programme was defective for no better assigned reason than that it did not suit *his* views? and can such vanity on his part by any means prove I could not teach my native tongue by the rules of a programme, even though it were formed by *him*? But such is precisely what, he tells your Excellency, convinced him to his "satisfaction" of my inability to fill the professorship of Spanish.

But the absurdity of the test of my ability to teach Spanish, thus stated by General Delafield, is not the worst feature of his statement. It lacks all fairness and some truth. At least it is not the whole truth.

My version of this programme affair is this: I formed a programme that did not suit the General. I then formed another which still did not suit him. He then said, you had better come here with me and I will aid you in preparing a programme; that he had just done the same with Professor French, who had been consulting him for some two hours; that all of these gentlemen had to come to him in the end about such matters, or words to this effect.

As a matter of courtesy, more than from a sense of necessity, I complied with his request, and he did aid me in forming a programme that worked to suit *him*. But I little dreamed he was taking notes of either my embarrassment or civility, with the concealed intention of wedding it to my future

disgrace, as his present use of that occasion proves him capable of doing.

General Delafield, proceeding further in his assault upon me, says :

“In 1859, another Professor reported to me the memoranda respecting the examinations in Spanish before a committee of the Academic Board in January, 1858, and June, 1859. In addition to the statements already given from other reports, this Professor stated that at the close of the Spanish examination a text-book of the course belonging to the section marcher of the third section of the class, and which was brought into the room where the examination was held, was placed in my hands, in which the verbs and other black-board exercises for this section were written out, and opposite to them the names of the members of the section to whom each separate exercise was assigned, and these were distributed at the examination in precisely the same order as they were written in the text-book, evidently showing that the members of the section had learned beforehand, by some means, the particular exercise upon which each would be examined. This text-book was placed in the hands of the Superintendent, and compared with the lists of exercises written in it with the notes of the reporting officers taken down at the examination, the two being found to coincide on all points.”.

This is the second time this matter of the memoranda found in the book of Cadet Ramseur is introduced, and it really appears again, but I shall dispose of it here.

All I know about this matter I learned from General Delafield, who sent for me and informed me that he had been apprized of the fact that such a memoranda had been found in Cadet Ramseur's book. I replied that I was then for the first time informed of such a thing, and that if he thought I was responsible for it, or had given the information to the cadet, that I desired a court of inquiry. To this, my request, General Delafield replied he was satisfied and I need give myself no future concern about it. I now see the mistake I made in believing General Delafield meant what he said. A court-martial then assembled would have saved me from the humiliation of answering this charge, now arrayed against me so remote from the time of its occurrence, and when the means of direct proof are scattered beyond my reach.

As to the merits of this matter I will say a few words. It is the experience of every Professor at West Point, that the cadets try all and the most artful means to discover the text and subjects upon which they are to be examined. The most cunning devices and inquiries are put forth for this purpose. It may be that I in some way let fall unawares the hints which led Cadet Ramseur to make the memoranda he did in his book; or he may have found some of my own notes accidentally let fall or mislaid; but I never in my life informed any cadet of the subject of his examination beyond that which was indicated in the usual course of study. And I feel that it is a cruelty and outrage to heap this matter upon me at this time, and in the covert way that it is done.

General Delafield, in his report, at last arrives at a very memorable epoch in the history of my connection with the Military Academy at West Point. From what has been shown in the manner in which he was ever the recipient of a constant under-current of gossip, or reports of "an officer," "a cadet," or "a professor," to all of which he lent his willing ear, but which he never hinted to me, except in the matter of the memoranda in Cadet Ramseur's book, which was then but an intimation which was abandoned as soon as I demanded a court of inquiry, it must be supposed that all this systematic private reflection upon me had to culminate at some time, and it did take a most extraordinary shape in 1860. But, as General Delafield has anticipated me in this view of the subject, I shall allow him to introduce the matter which I now proceed to consider.

In his report he says:

"In June, 1860, a Board of Visitors, appointed by the Secretary of War, assembled as usual to examine into the affairs of the Academy. As might be inferred from all heretofore stated, the professorial duties of the Spanish department was a subject of comment among the officers and Professors of the Institution generally, as well as among the cadets, and the incapacity of the Professor talked of as the grounds of complaint. On the 15th of June, several members of the board, through the Secretary, desired that I would cause the different members of the Academic Board to furnish them such notes and observations as they might have made from time to time whilst attending the examinations of cadets in the Spanish language, and which may relate to the competency of that Professor; also their different

opinions as to his capacity in all respects to fill the position he now occupies.

"Knowing this to be a legitimate duty of the Board of Visitors, and conforming with the orders of the War Department to give the Board all the information it might require to fulfil its duties, I ordered, on the 16th and 17th of June, Professors Mahan, Church, Weir, Agnel, Kendrich, Colonel Hardee, Captain Benton, Professors Bartlett, French, de Janon, and Duane, being the members of the Academic Board, to conform with the requirements of the Board of Visitors above referred to."

It is true that such a board met in June, 1860, as had been the case every preceeding June, and will every June hereafter, until the period of the annual examination is changed. And I agree with General Delafield that it might be supposed that "the department" would, in some shape, be forced into prominent consideration; and no one was more active in forcing that "department" into disagreeable notice than General Delafield. I was then becoming apprized that he was, by the most covert and artful means, setting the example of disrespect towards me to cadets, by his habit of listening to any thing a delinquent might see fit to say, when arraigned for improper deportment, or that some "a professor," or "an officer," might suggest, each knowing that abuse of me suited General Delafield's palate. The natural result to be expected from such conduct as this, which had characterized General Delafield, according to his own showing, since 1857, (though, as he says, he did not meet me personally until 1859,) was brought to light at the June examination for 1860.

I received the painful information about the time the examination commenced, that I was to be made the subject of assault. I had no fear for the success of my examination, but I dreaded the secret movements that I was informed were being plotted against me.

Among the Board of Visitors for this year (June, 1860) was one W. E. Jones and D. M. Frost, both graduates of West Point. Mr. Frost graduated before I went to West Point, and Mr. Jones graduated while I was "sword-master," (as General Delafield says,) and was by me reported for a gross indecency committed in the section room, and for which, after investigation, he was subjected to the severest punishment. On his arrival at West Point, he declared his purpose to seek revenge against me, of which threats I was

apprized ; and also that Mr. Frost would join him in it. I also discovered they were soon drawn in the closest intimacy with General Delafield—and I will here add that both these gentlemen have since paid the country for their education with the rankest treason, and both have died the death of traitors.

I believed Mr. Jones, who had proved himself a blackguard while his country sought to educate him into a gentleman, was capable of doing anything that was mean and vile, and I therefore sought no information as to any immediate cause of his threats to assail me ; but Mr. Frost being a stranger to me, and, as I hoped, had no unjust prejudices, I asked him if what I heard was true. He replied in a way that so astounded me that I next addressed to him a letter, in hopes to get his statements in writing over his own signature, with the intention of laying the subject before the War Department, and having a court of inquiry ordered on my complaint, wherein I could have for once at least the chance of meeting my accusers. I kept a copy of that letter, and here submit it for the consideration of your Excellency:

WEST POINT, *June 11, 1860.*

To General D. M. FROST,

Member of the Board of Visitors :

DEAR SIR: In the course of our conversation yesterday, you informed me that you had been told by officers of the Academy to the effect, viz: that I was incompetent to the discharge of my official functions ; that I had avoided the detection of this fact by the Board of Visitors, by communicating to my pupils in advance what they were to have at their examination ; that there existed a determination among the officers, both of the Academy and the army, to drive me from the institution, and that although I might escape this year, yet the efforts which are now being made would be renewed at subsequent examinations till it was finally accomplished. And you added that the feeling against me would have been avoided if I had not been promoted from my former to my present position. These are grave allegations. They implicate not less my own character than that of the officers of the Academy. I take it for granted that you are unwilling to believe the officers capable of a base conspiracy and a desire to do in secret what they could not do openly. I have therefore to request that you

will communicate, in writing, to me the names of the authors of this base conspiracy.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

P. DE JANON,
Professor of Spanish.

I received no reply from Mr. Frost, as I hoped I should, to this letter, and hence was not favored with the opportunity to carry out my purpose of seeking a court of inquiry. I, therefore, had no alternative but to wait for the development of events that should follow.

In the meantime my public examination was progressing, and it may be easily imagined the painful feelings with which I stood before the Board of Visitors, who were delegated by law to pass upon the manner in which I discharged my duty as Professor of Spanish; feeling, as I must, and did, that I was a marked victim for assault, no odds how well I might succeed in my examination.

Mr. Edmund I. Gould, of California, and Mr. George P. Marsh, of Vermont—two able Spanish scholars—were appointed a special sub-committee, who, together with Professor Agnel, of the Academy, who was also a Spanish scholar, were to subject my class to the most rigid examination. I observed that neither of the two first-named gentlemen of the Board of Visitors were disposed to converse with me on the subject of the examination, or anything else, as was more or less the social habit between the Board and the Professors. In short, I saw that *I* was under examination quite as much as my pupils; and after my examination was over, I distinctly heard General Delafield talking with Mr. Good, one of the Board of Visitors, in a manner that was disparaging of me. But I knew he did not intend me to hear it, and hence could not descend to notice it, though I felt it deeply.

But my reward for this torture inflicted upon me was the complete approval of my examination by this special sub-committee, which was the first time I ever knew, before or since, of such a committee being appointed to test the examination of any Professor. After I had passed through this fiery ordeal, I was gratified by having Mr. Gould come to me and say: "Now, sir, I can speak and converse with you with pleasure; but I felt restrained from doing so before your examination." And Professor Agnel came and said to me: "I was forced to be present at your examination by General Delafield,

though such was against my will." But, as stated, my examination was reported creditable by these chosen critics, as may be seen by reference to the report for that year by the Board of Visitors.

Having failed to break me down in my examination, I had hoped the work of assault upon me by General Delafield and his narrow circle of co-operators had closed; but such was not to be my comfort, as will be seen in a moment.

The report of this Board of Visitors was signed on the 15th day of June, 1860, (which is printed in appendix hereto,) which was the end of their labor, and I supposed had adjourned; when to my surprise, I was informed, on the morning of the 16th of June, to learn that the two gentlemen before noted, viz: Mr. W. E. Jones, and D. M. Frost, had constituted themselves into an independent committee or tribunal to try me in the very manner indicated in my letter to Mr. Frost, hereinbefore submitted.

I was not informed of this transaction, or afforded any opportunity to defend myself before this self-constituted tribunal, and only learned of their important proceedings by being handed the following circular, placed privately in the hands of the graduating class:

WEST POINT, N. Y., *June 15, 1860.*

To the Graduating Class of 1860:

We, the undersigned members of the Board of Visitors, desire, in order that we may intelligently perform all of the duties devolving upon us, that the members of the class which graduated yesterday will each express to us in writing his opinion relating to *Professor de Janon's attainments in the Spanish and English languages*, and also his opinion regarding his capacity to command that respect necessary to enable him to perform all the duties of a Professor at the Military Academy.

Very respectfully,

D. M. FROST,
W. E. JONES.
(No other names.)

The reading of this summons circulated among my pupils, inaugurating this impudent inquisition into my professional and personal character, distressed me in the greatest degree. I saw that it was signed by no one but Jones and Frost, of the Board of Visitors, both of whom had avowed their purpose in advance to drive me from the Academy. I was much at a loss to know what to do. Upon reflection, I re-

solved to send a copy of this summons addressed to my class to the War Department, and as I was aware that General Delafield was the main prompter of all this assault upon me, I did not deem it safe to use him as the medium of communication in that instance, but mailed this summons directly to the Secretary of War.

On the evening of the 18th of June, a friend connected with the Academy handed me the following official order :

HEADQUARTERS MIL. ACADEMY,
WEST POINT, N. Y., *June 18, 1860.*

Order :

The following named cadets will report to General Frost at the Hotel, one by one, at once, viz., Cadets Kingsbury, Dupont, Dreser, Kirby, Barlow, Jones, W. R. and Rowles, and the squad marches of the 3d class in Spanish.

By order of Colonel Delafield :

S. B. HOLABIRD,
1st Lieut. 1st Infy., Adj't M. A.

Seeing this order, singling out particular cadets who were to "report one by one" to one single member of the then late Board of Visitors, at his private room, was too palpable an outrage on me to endure. I therefore, on the next morning, as Professor of the Military Academy, supposed to have some rights, addressed to Colonel Delafield, over my official signature, the following letter of inquiry :

WEST POINT, *June 19, 1860.*

Col. R. DELAFIELD, *Sup't M. A.*

SIR : I am informed that Mr. D. M. Frost, under cover of an appointment as Visitor to attend the examinations of the Academy, is now, and has been for some days, prosecuting, upon his own responsibility, an *ex parte* investigation of my qualifications as a professor at this Institution, and that you have ordered certain designated cadets to report to said Frost at the public Hotel, for his examination, "*one by one.*" Under your order, these cadets believe themselves bound to answer just such interrogatories as said Frost may see fit to propound. Of these answers Frost may record just as much as may suit his purposes; and thus, under cover of his character as Visitor, and the exercise of your authority as my official superior, my reputation and interests are subjected to a

process unequalled in enormity since the days of the Star-Chamber. I repeat that Mr. Frost is acting in his own individual capacity, and by no authority from the Board of Visitors, of which the official organs, viz., the President and the Secretary, left West Point last week. Against this I hereby solemnly protest, and ask from you the protection of which I am deprived by the absence from this place of the civil tribunals of the country.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

P. DE JANON,
Prof. of Spanish.

I need scarcely add that General Delafield gave no answer to this communication, though I, a subordinate, was still *an* officer of the Academy, and was entitled to his official notice. But his hatred had so far generated into contempt, that he was ready to, and did, violate alike personal decorum and his official duty.

My right and the respect due me as an officer being thus violated and disregarded by the official superior placed over me by my Government, I of course could do no more.

On the next morning, the 20th of June, I was informed that Capt. E. B. Bryan, General John S. Good, and J. Cope-land, three of the late Board of Visitors, were still in the neighborhood of the Academy. I addressed to each of them the following letter:

WEST POINT, *June 20, 1860.*

DEAR SIR: I am told that General D. M. Frost, one of your colleagues, in apparent disregard of the evidence furnished by the examination of my class, is, and has been for several days, officially seeking and recording the opinions of certain cadets, pupils of the Academy, in reference to my qualifications to teach the Spanish language.

Will you have the goodness to inform me whether this extraordinary proceeding has the sanction of the Board of Visitors?

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

P. DE JANON,
Prof. of the Spanish Language.

I promptly received from each of these gentlemen replies repudiating the conduct of General Delafield and Messrs. Jones and Frost, and disavowing the whole proceeding as not

being the act of the Board of Visitors, which had adjourned on the 16th of June.

On the next day, to wit, the 21st day of June, 1860, a most peremptory order was issued from the War Department, commanding General Delafield to instantly desist from his unjust and unauthorized proceeding. General Delafield was soon after this ordered away from West Point, and I was once more allowed to perform my duties in peace.

But I must retrograde for a moment to follow General Delafield's statement in his report. He says :

“On the 16th of June the Secretary of the Board called for the memorandum in my possession relating to an understanding between the Professor and his pupils of the particular questions and exercises they must be examined upon. It was furnished accordingly.”

“The Secretary of the Board” for this year was Mr. J. S. Slocum, of Rhode Island, who was a total stranger to me, as he was to all the other professors and officers at West Point, and certainly had no *personal* knowledge of any “memorandum in the possession” of General Delafield, relating to any understanding between my pupils and myself, unless some one had taken great pains to inform Mr. Slocum on this subject. The question is, who gave that information? or, who could know what memorandum General Delafield had in his possession except himself? And what could prompt Mr. Slocum to call for that particular memorandum, unless it was that General Delafield, leading this assault upon me, informed Mr. Slocum, or told his co-adjutors, Messrs. Jones and Frost, to tell Mr. Slocum to call for it. I beg to remark that this “memorandum” spoken of by General Delafield has reference to a “memorandum,” as he calls it, copied by himself from Cadet Ramsaur's book in 1859, over a year previous to the time he requested Mr. Slocum to call for it, and is the same in reference to which I demanded a court of inquiry at the hands of General Delafield, when he said he was satisfied with my denial; but it seems his satisfaction was of that jesuitical character which meant to ripen for the future an accusation which he had not the manliness or justice to make then, but preferred that the harrow of time should obscure the path of vindication on my part, while he sneakily preserved his so-called “memorandum” to attack me with in the very manner he did in June, 1860. But let us bring forward the next paragraph in General Delafield's report, which, in point of trickery, even enlarges upon his well preserved memoranda.

He says :

"On the 18th of June the Secretary of the Board desired that the cadet squad marches be required to report to the Board; whereupon I ordered Cadets Kingsbury, Dupont, Dresser, Kirby, Barlow, Jones, and Rawles to report accordingly. On the 19th of June the Secretary of the Board of Visitors, Mr. Slocum, reported to me the official adjournment of the Board, and on the 21st instant I received a telegram from Secretary Floyd, disapproving of my order directing certain cadets to report to the Secretary of the Board of Visitors and revoking all proceedings under it, and all action to be arrested and discontinued."

So far as dates are important, in looking into the *animus* of General Delafield, it is seen that it was "on the 16th of June" that Mr. Slocum called on General Delafield for "the memorandum in *his*" possession, and here we have it that it was "on the 16th of June the Secretary of the Board DESIRED that the cadet squad marches be required to report to the Board," &c. This 16th of June seems to have been pregnant with demands on General Delafield, who, from any thing he says, would be pleased to have your Excellency believe that all these calls were prompted by "the Board," and not he prompting the Board to make these calls. But I will invite attention to these calls and dates again presently.

The General next says in the same paragraph: "I ordered Cadets Kingsbury, Dupont, Draper, Kirby, Barlow, Jones, and Rowles to report accordingly." Now this all reads very smoothly, but it so happens that General Delafield's order to these cadets was dated the 18th, and *not* the 16th of June. And, in the second place, they were ordered to "*report to General Frost at the hotel,*" and not to "*report to the Board,*" as General Delafield falsely asserts in *his* assault on me. To save all mistakes I repeat the order in full a second time. It reads thus:

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY ACADEMY,
WEST POINT, N. Y., *June 18, 1860.*

Order:

The following-named cadets will report to General Frost at the hotel, one by one, at once, viz:

Cadets Kingsbury, Dupont, Dreser, Kirby, Barlow, Jones, W. R., and Rawles, and the squad marches of the 3d class in Spanish.

By order of, Colonel Delafield:

S. B. HOLABIRD,
1st Lieut. 1st Inf't., Adj't M. A.

This settles the fact that the order to appear was on the 18th of June, and not the 16th of June, and that the cadets were ordered to report "to General Frost," and not "to the Board." And I shall show presently that the particular cadets named did appear on the 18th of June before General Frost, and will set forth verbatim what they said, and how they said it, when roomed with General Frost at the hotel.

And, in the third place, I should like General Delafield to inform your Excellency why he ordered the particular cadets above named to appear before General Frost, or by what authority he named any cadets at all. If the paper signed by Messrs. Jones and Frost is to be received as the order from the whole Board of Visitors, as is ingenuously pretended by General Delafield, and which was dated June 15th, 1860, and was addressed "*to the Graduating Class of 1860,*" and in the body it says: "*the class which graduated yesterday (which would be the 14th of June) will each express to us in writing his opinion relating to Professor de Janon's attainments in the Spanish and English languages; also, his opinion regarding his capacity to command that respect necessary to enable him to perform all the duties of a Professor at the Military Academy.*"

(Signed)

Very respectfully,

D. M. FROST,
W. E. JONES.
(No other names.)

Such is the style of address and language of the summons. It is addressed to the *whole* class of some *forty*, and not to only *seven* of that class, as designated by General Delafield. And "*each was to express his opinion in writing.*" and not to "report to General Frost at the hotel," as ordered by General Delafield.

May I not ask, then, by what authority General Delafield selected *seven* of the class, when all were summoned? By what authority did he order them to "report to General Frost at the hotel, one by one," when the whole class were "each to express to *us* in writing his opinion," and not to give a verbal statement to D. M. Frost "at the hotel," as was ordered by General Delafield. By what private arrangement between D. M. Frost and General Delafield was this limited number of the whole class agreed upon? Was it because General Delafield, being determined to destroy me, and although the Board have approved my examination, in spite of his galling efforts to embarrass me, had used his official position to canvass my pupils, and only sent those whom he knew would, and whom he had drilled to state something to my prejudice? And that

fearing these chosen few would not "express in writing" their opinion to suit his wishes, preferred they should give it verbally to D. M. Frost, and have him write it down more to the purpose? Could the private or professional character or qualifications of any gentleman escape damage under the pressure of such mode of assault as this? And may not the Superintendent at West Point destroy the efficiency and displace any professor he pleases, if he is to be sustained in such a gross perversion and abuse of his official position?

Had I been invited to be present at General Frost's room at the hotel, the unfairness of the *ex parte* inquisition would appear less offensive. But as has ever been my fortune in the hands of General Delafield, such justice was not allowed me. I was to be criticised and picked to pieces by a few of my pupils behind my back, when I could not be present to correct their errors, or properly challenge their misrepresentations. With such persuasions to disrespect thus exhibited, and, indeed, taught to the cadets by the Superintendent, no professor can well succeed in managing or instructing his class in the Military Academy at West Point.

In the same paragraph last quoted General Delafield says :

"On the 19th of June the Secretary of the Board of Visitors, Mr. Slocum, reported to me the official adjournment of the Board."

Never was a statement more ingeniously *designed* to mislead your Excellency than this. Upon its face it seems to imply that the Board of Visitors and General Delafield were quite remote from each other, and that it required some time for the one to be informed or apprized of the movements of the other. General Delafield would seem to wish to be regarded as seated quite serene in his official sanctum, wholly unaware of the movements of the Board of Visitors, or more particularly of what was going on before *one* of that body "at the hotel," when his quietness was suddenly aroused by the official announcement that the Board of Visitors had adjourned.

It may be that on the 19th of June General Delafield *received*, or may have picked up, opened, and read such a note from Mr. Slocum *informing* him of the official adjournment of the Board, but that by no means proves that the Board adjourned on that day. By reference to the official report of the Board of Visitors, it will be seen that it was signed on

the 15th day of June, 1860. It is dated at West Point, New York, and signed by

G. P. WOOD, *Kentucky,*
President of the Board.

JOHN S. SLOCUM,
Secretary of the Board.

VICTOR DU PAUL, *Delaware.*

JOHN R. HOWARD, *Tennessee.*

WM. W. FLOYD, *Arkansas.*

J. P. COPELAND, *Michigan.*

GEORGE P. MARSH, *Vermont.*

JOHN S. GOOD, *Texas.*

EDWARD E. GOULD, *California.*

JOHN A. SKINNER, *Louisiana.*

W. E. JONES, *Virginia.*

D. M. FROST, *Missouri.*

EDWARD B. BRYAN, *South Carolina.*

All these gentlemen were present at West Point on the 15th of June, as a Board of Visitors to the annual examination of the cadets at the Military Academy, of which General Delafield was then the official head and Superintendent. On the day above named, (15th June,) the Board of Visitors completed their official duties, and certified that fact to the War Department, and adjourned; and on the next day, (this 16th June,) eight of the thirteen present left West Point, leaving no quorum behind to transact any business or in any wise use the name of the Board. Yet strange to say, General Delafield only learned this fact four days later, to wit: on the 19th of June. It may have been that the General was too busy canvassing the opinions of the graduating class, so as to know who to send before D. M. Frost, to make statements against me, and to give his accustomed attention to his mail during those four days.

The General concludes the paragraph last quoted, by saying :

“On the 21st (June) I received a telegram from Secretary Floyd, disapproving of my order directing certain cadets to report to the Secretary of the Board of Visitors, and revoking all proceedings under it, and all action to be arrested and discontinued.”

This is all quite true, with the important exception that General Delafield *never ordered* “certain cadets to report to the Secretary of the Board of Visitors,” but he did order them to “REPORT TO GENERAL FROST AT THE HOTEL, ONE BY ONE,” although he makes free use of the name of the Board of Visitors

to shield this illegal and unauthorized proceeding against me, and from which he only desisted when touched by the rod of his official superiors.

I now arrive at a question of veracity raised by General Delafield against me, in his report. That there is a "misrepresentation" let loose I freely admit, but upon whom it is to be fastened will appear in the sequel. The General says :

"Professor de Janon, on the 19th of June, saw fit to represent this examination with the officers of the Academy by the Board of Visitors as the act of one of its members, "under cover of an appointment as visitors to attend the examination," that I had ordered certain cadets to report to that individual.

"This was a misrepresentation on the part of the Professor. I have the written requirements dated 15th of June, signed by John S. Slocum, Secretary of the Board, and three of the members, asking attendance of the Professors, and under date of 16th June, by same authority, asking attendance of cadets."

On the 19th of June, 1860, I did address to General Delafield a communication containing the statements referred to, and in order to show precisely what I did say, and why I did it, I beg leave to here set forth that statement in full. It was as follows :

WEST POINT, *June 19, 1860.*

COL. R. DELAFIELD, *Superintendent Military Academy :*

SIR : I am informed that Mr. D. M. Frost, under cover of an appointment as Visitor to attend the examination of the Academy, is now, and has been for some days, prosecuting, upon his own responsibility, an *ex parte* investigation of my qualifications as a Professor at this Institution, and that you have ordered certain designated cadets to report to said Frost at the public hotel, for his examination, "one by one." Under your order, these cadets believe themselves bound to answer just such interrogatories as said Frost may see fit to propound. Of these answers Frost may record just as much as may suit his purposes, and thus, under cover of his character as Visitor, and the exercises of your authority as my official superior, my reputation and interests are subjected to a process unequalled in enormity since the days of the Star Chamber. I repeat that Mr. Frost is acting in his own individual capacity, and by no authority from the Board of Visitors, of which the official organs,

viz., the President and the Secretary, left West Point last week. Against this I hereby solemnly protest, and ask from you the protection of which I am deprived by the absence from this place of the civil tribunals of the country.

Very respectfully, your ob't servant,

P. DE JANON,
Professor of Spanish.

General Delafield received this communication on the day it bears date, and though addressed to him officially upon matters deeply involving my interests as an officer of the Academy, he never paid any attention to it whatever, or gave me any reply. It was by this species of disregard, or I may truly say, contempt, at all times evinced towards me, as a Professor, by General Delafield, whereby he set an example to the cadets to practice a like want of deference if they saw fit. But in justice to the better manners and appreciation of my efforts to instruct them, on the part of my pupils, I say they ever treated me with all proper consideration, notwithstanding General Delafield's habit of discussing me in the presence of these same cadets, to my prejudice, of which he shows abundant proof in his report.

But to the point. General Delafield says, "I saw fit to represent this examination with officers of the Academy by the Board of Visitors as the act of one of its members," under cover (quoting my language) "of an appointment as Visitor to attend the examination," that "I (he) ordered certain cadets to report to that individual."

I repeat the same statement here, and say it is true, and shall prove it over, first, his own order and signature, and then by the examination of those cadets by the "one of its members" (of the Board) referred to. First, however, I beg to correct that part of the General's language above quoted, where he makes me include in my complaint "the officers of the Academy," "Board of Visitors," and "Visitors." I made no complaint about any act of the "Board of Visitors," or "officers of the Academy," no such words being in my letter referred to by him, and above set forth. But I did complain and protest against the outrageous conduct of General Delafield and D. M. Frost as individuals. Now to the proof.

General Delafield, taking issue with the statement, says :

"This was a misrepresentation on the part of the Professor. I have the written requirements dated 15th June, signed by John S. Slocum, Secretary of the Board, and those of the members, asking attendance of the Professors, and under date of

16th of June, by same authority," (John S. Slocum and three of the members,) "asking attendance of cadets."

I regret that General Delafield did not set forth these "written requirements," signed by John S. Slocum, Secretary, and three members of the Board, as its inspection would prove whether these *four* persons presumed to use the name of the *whole* Board; and also whether John S. Slocum was *one* of the *three* members himself, and hence there would be *but* three who did sign "the requirements." I have information to the contrary of the said "requirements" being signed by either four or three, and have before set forth the summons addressed "To THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 1860," dated "West Point, N. Y., June 15, 1860," signed by "D. M. FROST," and "W. E. JONES," and no one else. If, therefore, General Delafield has another summons or "requirements" besides this, I should like to see it.

But if General Delafield has two such requirements dated 15th and 16th June, 1860, he, by his order of the 18th of June, violated these "requirements" to appear before said "John S. Slocum and three members of the Board," and took it upon himself to order, not the cadets as a class, but only seven cadets out of forty, to "report to General Frost at the hotel, one by one," as is shown by his official order, which I beg leave to here again present verbatim :

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY ACADEMY.

WEST POINT, N. Y., *June 18, 1860.*

Order :

The following named cadets will report to GENERAL FROST at the Hotel, one by one, at once, viz: Cadets Kingsbury, Dupont, Dresser, Kirby, Barlow, Jones, and Rowles, and the squad marches of the 3d class in Spanish.

By order of COLONEL DELAFIELD :

S. B. HOLABIRD,

1st Lieut. 1st Inf'y., Adjutant Military Academy.

After much trouble I have captured this order, and also the examination of some of these cadets, and one not named on the same day, and I here submit it as proof conclusive that it is General Delafield who has made "misrepresentation" to your Excellency, and not I to him in my letter of protest against his persecution of me, on the 19th of June, 1860.

But let us go a step further : It is seen that this order is dated the 18th June, 1860 ; and I now wish to show from the examination which took place on the same day, *that it was by D. M. FROST, alone, and not before "John S. Slocum, Secretary*

of the Board, and three of the members," as General Delafield artfully seeks to palm off upon your Excellency, in his insolent, though complacent contradiction of me.

The following is a copy of the statements made before D. M. Frost, "at the Hotel," as furnished to me by a reliable officer, who after some trouble procured it for me :

Evidence furnished to the BOARD OF VISITORS to the United States Military Academy, appointed for 1860, relating to the qualifications of the Professor of Spanish.

W. S. D. RAMSEUR, (a graduate,) being called before THE BOARD, says :

"I was squad-marcher of the third section of my class in Spanish. On going to the examination hall, we were requested to furnish our Spanish books to members of the Academic Board in order that they might follow the examination. On a blank leaf in my reading book was discovered by a member of the Board the following memorandum : 'Read from page 12 to 30, Velazquez, as far as 30th lesson, and in addition to this a verb opposite the name of each man of the section.' The Superintendent seeing this, sent for me to explain it. I stated that the Professor, for three or four days previous to the examination, gave out to the members of the sections, calling them up in the order in which they sat, (which was his usual mode of instruction,) one verb to each man ; the same verb being given to the same man during each of these three days, I *inferring from this* that these verbs would be the ones to be given to the section. *This was without THE PROFESSOR'S KNOWLEDGE.*

"The Professor stated to us that out of the forty-five pages of Velazquez which constituted the course, we should be examined upon the first eighteen. *My* SURMISES regarding the verbs proved correct at the examination with but two exceptions."

Mr. J. H. KELLOGG, of the same class with Ramseur, being called before "THE BOARD," says :

"I was squad-marcher of the second section of my class. The examination of my section was conducted *in a similar manner* to that of the third section. *I did not make a memorandum*, but I THINK I was furnished with a paper. I was also furnished with a paper on which were written questions to be asked at the examination."

Mr. WALTER MCFARLAND, of the same class, being called before "THE BOARD," says :

"I was squad-marcher of the first section, Spanish. The recitations of my section were so conducted as to *satisfy* me that the examination of it before the Academic Board would be confined to about a dozen particular verbs, and my *impression* proved correct with one or two exceptions. With regard to the Reader, we were informed that we would be examined on certain particular pieces, embracing perhaps *one half* of the course of reading ; these particular pieces were the only parts reviewed by the section."

W. R. JONES, of the same class, being called before "THE BOARD," says :

"I was squad-marcher of the fourth section in Spanish. In regard to the reader, verbs, and Velazquez, we were given to understand that our examination would be confined to particulars of these books. *I have forgotten how the Professor threw it out, or we were given to understand that such would be the case, but at all events our information proved correct, and each member of the section had the verb he expected.*"

WEST POINT, N. Y., June 18, 1860.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a correct record of the statements of Messrs. Ramseur, Kellogg, Jones, and McFarland.

D. M. FROST,
Member of the Board of Visitors, 1860.

Now, it has been seen that "Colonel Delafield's" order to particular cadets to "report to General Frost at the Hotel, one by one," was dated on the 18th of July, 1860, and it is shown by the above that the examination did take place on the same 18th of July, 1860, before the said D. M. Frost, and is signed by him alone ; the names of "John S. Slocum and three members of the Board" nowhere appearing, except in the studied report of General Delafield, carefully concocted to rob me alike of character, honor, home, and support of a dependent family.

I therefore respectfully beg to offer this evidence as a conclusive vindication of myself against the charges of falsehood or "*misrepresentation*," (which is worse,) officially certified to your Excellency against me by General Richard Delafield on the 16th day of July, 1864. It has cost me much trouble, labor, and I may say humiliation, to look it up, but it is here in

sunlight verity, and so stands the record for veracity between us.

As to how far this overwhelming proof fixes his gratuitous charges of "misrepresentation" (the worst of falsifying) back upon his own skirts, I leave it to the impartial judgment of your Excellency to decide, as I have no desire to place General Delafield, my late official superior, in a worse position than he has seen fit to place himself, nor in half so bad a one as he would place me, poor and humble as I am.

But the sustaining of my veracity is by no means the only or the most important benefit which results to me from these above garbled statements of my late pupils, called out by the unauthorized joint operations of General Delafield and the said D. M. Frost. Its open inspection opens the insinuated Pandora's box and lets out the pretended mysteries within, which General Delafield would have your Excellency believe was stifled and pent up by the mandate of the War Department, on the 21st of June, 1860, when he was ordered to desist from his evil doing in "*directing certain cadets to report to the Secretary of the Board of Visitors,*" as he says, when I have just shown that no such "order" was given by him or obeyed by the "certain cadets" named. But the statements taken by said D. M. Frost who has proved himself as false to truth and justice as he has since proved himself traitorous to his country, and ungrateful for the education it gave him, exposes the fact upon its face that the painful charge of collusion with my pupils, preferred by General Delafield, to defeat my restoration to my late position at the Military Academy, consisted of *guesses, surmises, and inferences*, created in the minds of the watchful pupils, dreading the coming ordeal of a public examination, and using all possible means to fix upon the probable line of exercises. Is it possible for any teacher of a language to prevent this? But it falls as much short of fixing any culpable collusion with my pupils upon me as it does of proving that General Delafield picked a pocket on that day, as it does prove that he was picking my character from me, and the bread from the mouths of my wife and children.

It also proves that each cadet was pretended to be examined before "the Board of Visitors;" that Cadets Ramseur, Kellogg, Jones, and McFarland were each "*called before the Board,*" when there was on that day no such body in West Point, which General Delafield knows to be true. But still these very garbled statements would have been smothered into the War Department, perhaps to my ruin, in the name of the "Board of Visitors," had not official power and justice prevented it, though monstrous fraud it would have been.

It shows, that of the seven cadets by name ordered before said Frost, the statements of only one appears to have testified, which satisfies me that what I was told at the time was true, that whenever a cadet spoke in my favor, that the *inquisitor* Frost said "*the statement was immaterial*," and did not put it down, while the worthy Superintendent was actually engaged drumming up those who would speak to the desired effect. It was this occupation which perhaps kept him from learning "*officially*" that the Board of Visitors had adjourned until three days after it had done so.

It shows, furthermore, that the summons addressed "to the graduating class of 1860," requiring "each to express to us in writing his opinion," was violated and departed from by the order of General Delafield of the 18th of June, ordering certain cadets to report verbally to said Frost; and that no cadet did write down his own statement or sign it after it was written by said Frost to suit himself, who, after he had exhausted his material, certifies that such was "*a correct statement of Messrs. Ramseur, Kellogg, Jones, and McFarland.*"

It shows that this examination, outrageous as it was, had been closed and certified by D. M. Frost on the 18th June; and hence was not arrested by the order of the War Department on the 21st June, as General Delafield would seem to imply was the case.

It shows, finally, that Gen. Delafield was pumping through my pupils for grounds of fault against me, or else why would he select "certain cadets," or know what they would say. And an officer who would do this would also suggest what he wished should be said, and use the pressure of his official power to have it so.

I am willing any of my late brother professors at West Point shall look over the proof taken by said Frost, and say candidly whether a fair version of it, cramped as it is, is anything more than occurs in their own classes. I will accept the impeachment if it be so.

But as General Delafield was able to find among my whole pupils as many as *four* whom he was able to command, under the pressure of his official order as Superintendent, to say something *about* rather than really *against* me in the year 1860, may I not be pardoned for offering the frank and gratuitous statements of over *thirty*, who, hearing of General Delafield's attempt to assassinate my professional character, sent me, *without the aid* of Superintendent Delafield's order, the following letters and testimonials? Of these I shall commence with that of George W. Dresser, because he is one of those "ordered" to 'report to General Frost at the hotel, on the 18th June," and

who, not talking to suit the inquisitors, his statements were deemed "*immaterial*," and hence not worth preserving :

WEST POINT, N. Y.,

November 28, 1860.

TO PROF. DE JANON, *Prof. Spanish, U. S. M. A.* :

DEAR SIR: To-day I have been informed that efforts are being made by some self-interested persons to renew arrogances and persecutions which have heretofore proved in vain for the accomplishment of their end, and I feel impelled by every principle of gratitude and friendship for one so long connected with this Academy to express to you my sincere regret for your misfortune, and fervent wish that they may be thwarted who are working against you. My humble opinion is of course of little importance, but yet, if the expression of it would be any gratification or of service to you, I most cordially give it. Our relations as preceptor and pupil were ever marked on your part by the most earnest desire to impart instruction, which, while it did meet with a less ample return than it deserved from myself, is now most truly appreciated and gratefully remembered.

Often, since my instruction in Spanish ceased, I have wished myself possessed of the fluency in that beautiful language which you possess, and that I might at some day make even a distant approach to that mastery of the language which you displayed. Knowing as I do all you have to contend against, and sincerely hoping that you may maintain your present high position, I have no hesitancy in saying that I firmly believe that the department in which you labor, and of which you are the head, is capable of giving as thorough a knowledge of the Spanish language as can be given, if the advantages there offered are improved as they should be by those having the honor to enjoy them.

With the kindest wishes for your welfare and success, I remain, as ever, most respectfully, yours truly,

GEO. W. DRESSER,

Cadet, U. S. M. A.

SIR: I am sorry that want of time prevents me from addressing you in person, but I coincide in all the opinions as expressed by my friend above.

Yours truly,

WRIGHT RIVES,

Cadet, U. S. M. A.

WEST POINT, N. Y.,
January 7, 1861.

Prof. DE JANON:

DEAR SIR: We hear that your enemies have used to your detriment the statements of our class, and have allowed the few to speak in behalf of the whole. Permit us to correct these statements, as far as we are concerned. We regard you, sir, as a high-toned and honorable gentleman, and respect you accordingly.

Very respectfully yours,

HENRY C. HASBROUC
WM. PELHAM.

CAMP ANDERSON,
WEST POINT, N. Y., August 18, 1861.

Prof. P. DE JANON:

SIR: Having heard that there was a project on foot to prevail upon high authority to relieve you from your department for incompetency, we, (the members of the first section in Spanish at the U. S. Military Academy,) who have been under your immediate instruction during the past year, deem it proper, and but justice to your reputation as a Professor, to testify that you are perfectly competent to discharge your duties as Professor of the Spanish language at the U. S. Military Academy, and we hope that this opinion of cadets, however lightly it may be estimated, may receive the favorable consideration of the President and the Secretary of War.

Very respectfully, your obedient servants,

WILLIAM A. MARSH,
GEORGE BURROUGH,
GEO. D. GILLESPIE,
JOHN A. KRESS,
CHARLES R. SUTER,
HENRY C. WHARTON,
JARED A. SMITH,
JAMES M. LANCASTER,
CLEMENS C. CHAFFEE.

WEST POINT, N. Y.,
July 23, 1860.

Prof. DE JANON :

DEAR SIR: A commission having been instituted by the late Board of Visitors to inquire into your abilities as a professor of Spanish, I take the liberty of addressing you this letter, which, although it should be of no service to you, may at least prove satisfactory as an exponent of the opinion in which you are held by the section under your immediate charge. During the time I studied Spanish under you, I certainly learned as much, if not more of the language than I did of French in the same time. As to your English, which I have heard was considered insufficient to instruct, the person who made the assertion could certainly never have heard you converse. It is, in my opinion, fully sufficient for all purposes of conversation, translation, or anything connected with teaching Spanish. I can only state in addition to the above, that in the section room you treated each cadet as a gentleman, and if he ever took advantage of your leniency, it was his misfortune and not your fault.

Hoping that these few remarks may meet the object for which they were intended, that of satisfying you in respect to the opinions of at least one of those who for a whole year profited by your tuition, I remain, your's, with much respect,

J. F. O'BRIEN,
U. S. Corps of Cadets.

CAMP FRANKLIN PIERCE,
 WEST POINT, N. Y., *July 23, 1860.*

Professor DE JANON :

DEAR SIR: It affords me great pleasure to be able to assure you how truly we appreciate the value of the mutual intercourse which we have sustained during the past Academic year. Intercourse, to be sure, between Professor and student, but you have made us feel at the same time that it was between friend and friend. I am happy to say, sir, that as regards myself, the past year has not been thrown away. In your own Department I am sure it has not been lost. We have been over quite a considerable amount of Spanish, and I think the recent examination was sufficient evidence that we had not merely *been over it*.

As a member of your own section, I have to thank you for the uniform kindness and devotion to duty which you have ever manifested towards us as a section, and I feel that the high regard which we have for Professor de Janon has been more than called for by the unwearied efforts which he has made in our behalf.

I am, sir, respectfully yours,

WM. H. HARRIS,
U. S. Corps of Cadets.

PATRICE DE JANON,
Professor of Spanish, U. S. M. A.

WEST POINT, N. Y.,
July, 1860.

Prof. DE JANON :

DEAR SIR: I feel it my duty to make you a short and gratuitous, though perhaps superfluous, statement of certain opinions I have formed during our intercourse of one year in the respective positions of Professor and pupil. I am instigated in this movement by certain occurrences which were brought to my notice during and immediately subsequent to the recent examination. It gives me great pleasure to assure you that during the intervals in which I was under your instruction, I attained a degree of proficiency in the Spanish language entirely surprising to myself. I am confident that I acquired as competent a knowledge of the language as I ever have done of the French during an equal period of time. I cannot attribute to myself any degree of credit for the progress I have thus made, but I believe it to be due almost solely to your admirable and eminently *practical* system of instruction.

In conclusion, I would respectfully express my appreciation of your very gentlemanly demeanor and universally courteous bearing in the recitation room, as also to my admiration for your personal character, as a GENTLEMAN who implicitly demands and invariably receives the utmost respect from all who know and duly appreciate him.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ARTHUR H. DUTTON,
Cadet U. S. M. A.

WEST POINT, NEW YORK,
December 31, 1860.

TO P. DE JANON, *Professor of Spanish,*
Military Academy, West Point, N. Y. :

DEAR SIR: Circumstances have led me to suppose that my opinion as First Assistant in Spanish may be of some use to you in reference to your proficiency to teach that language, and also as to the manner in which your department is conducted.

My knowledge of the language is entirely confined to what I have taught myself while on the frontier of Mexico, and I have of course been obliged to refer to you constantly to correct my pronunciation, and explain points of the grammar. I am happy to state, that on no occasion have you failed to explain everything to my perfect satisfaction.

As to the manner in which the department is conducted, I think it sufficient to state, that judging from the manner in which the languages were taught when I was a cadet, the Spanish department is immeasurably superior. Hoping that this may be of service to you should you be called upon to use it, I remain,

Your obedient servant,

GEO. A. WILLIAMS,
1st Lieut., 1st Infantry.

WEST POINT, N. Y.,
Nov. 28, 1860.

Prof. DE JANON :

DEAR SIR: We, the undersigned, members of the Second Class, feeling that something is due from us to reassure you of the regard and esteem in which you are held by us, and at the same time knowing the aspersions which have been cast upon you, as the Professor of the Spanish Language, have adopted this method of tendering to you our heartfelt appreciation of your merits and sterling worth.

If anything is necessary in apology for eulogium, which under other circumstances would appear gratuitous, we must urge our great desire to erase from your mind the impression that the opinion as expressed by designing persons before a self-constituted inquisition is the general one.

We take great pleasure in testifying (in so far as we are

capable of judging) to your merit with regard to the Spanish language, and we feel fully convinced by an intimate connection with you, (being members of your own section, the first,) that you are perfectly capable of teaching the language, and we are glad to state your dignified, yet highly courteous bearing in the class room is well calculated to inspire sentiments of *respect* in those who can appreciate such high qualities. Again assuring you of our best wishes,

We are, with much respect, your ob't servants,

JOHN J. GARNETT,
LUCIEN D. SANDIDGE,
D. H. BUEL.

UNITED STATES CORPS CADETS,
WEST POINT, Nov. 29, 1860.

Prof. DE JANON :

SIR: We, the undersigned members of the United States Corps Cadets, having with regret heard that an attempt has been made (or will be made) to deprive you of the position you hold as a Professor at this Institution, with the kindest regards tender this slight but heartfelt testimonial of our appreciation of your merits and capabilities as a Professor.

Having passed through the Spanish course of studies as prescribed by the programme of the various branches of study pursued by the cadets, in accordance with the decision of the Academic Board, we cordially testify that it is our belief that you are qualified to teach the Spanish language, as far as it lies in our ability to judge. If this expression of our humble opinions can in any manner be of service or gratification to you, believe only that it is dictated by the grateful remembrance of the kind tuition imparted to us whilst our class was under your instruction.

Sir, we have the honor to be, yours respectfully,

FRANK A. REYNOLDS,
PIERCE M. BUTLER YOUNG,
DAVID G. WHITE,
JAMES P. PARKER,
JOHN LANE,
G. A. W. CUSTER,
LE ROY S. ELBERT.

WEST POINT, Jan. 8, 1861.

Prof. DE JANON :

SIR : it is with the greatest pleasure that I take this opportunity, (perhaps the last I may have,) of expressing to you the high appreciation and respect which I entertain for you, both as a professor and a perfect gentleman.

I shall always look back with the greatest pleasure to the time at which I was receiving instruction from you in the Spanish language, and whenever it has been necessary for me to ask instruction from you, it has always been given kindly, promptly, and in a perfect, clear, and explicit manner, and your department in the section room has always been such as should command the respect of all over whom you have exercised instruction. I would say, in conclusion, that many of the statements which have been made by cadets to your detriment, (with such pretended disinterestedness,) have been made merely to gratify their own personal animosity or that of their friends, and for this reason I think they should be utterly disregarded by every just and reasonable person.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. C. WILLIAMS,
U. S. Corps Cadets.

Such I beg to present as the opinion of my pupils, *en masse*, and about the time D. M. Frost and General Delafield held their secret session "at the hotel," in 1860, where it has been shown by their proceedings that even the power of *official authority and drill* could only muster *four cadets* who had "*surmised*" or "*inferred*" something that led them to *think* so and so ; but how different is the unbiassed tone of the testimonials above set forth in my behalf?

I next present the letter of E. L. Gould, Esq., one of the *special* committee appointed, on account of his being a *technical Spanish scholar*, to not only examine, but to *scrutinize* me and my pupils, at that noted examination of 1860. I truly regret that General Delafield did not summons Mr. Gould before "General Frost, at the hotel;" he might have said more things than one, much to the point, at that time :

WASHINGTON, July 1, 1860.

To Prof. DE JANON, *West Point, N. Y.* :

SIR : At your request I state my opinion of your qualifications as teacher of the Spanish language. I was a member

of the Board of Visitors at the U. S. Military Academy, invited for the year 1860. The Board deputed two of its members, Mr. Marsh and myself, a sub-committee to attend the examination of the cadets in French and Spanish. The only fault in your performance of your duties which, from observation and conversation with persons likely to know, I discovered, was an excess of leniency in enforcing the rigid rules of obedience on the part of the cadets, and your occasional failure to remember that in the exuberance of youth they cannot always reciprocate the courtesies which grace the intercourse of persons of mature years.

I came to the conclusion that you were entirely competent to the discharge of the duty of imparting a correct knowledge of the Spanish language, and that, with such modifications in the course as are suggested in the report of the Board of Visitors, your chair would become not only a valuable acquisition to the Military Academy, but one which the public service could hardly dispense with.

Your obedient servant,

E. L. GOULD.

To the same effect, if not more decisive, I here submit a letter from Professor Bartlett, a few days after Mr. Frost and General Delafield adjourned *their* special investigation. Professor Bartlett could not fail to see the shameless persecution that these self-constituted inquisitors have inflicted upon me, and his high sense of justice and right prompted him to tender me this consolation to my troubled heart, as a vindication against the assaults of my enemies. Professor Bartlett's testimony would, of course, not suit Mr. Frost and General Delafield. But read the Professor's letter :

WEST POINT, *Aug.* 21, 1860.

PROF. P. DE JANON, *Present* :

DEAR SIR: Circumstances which you will readily recall and appreciate have induced the belief that testimonials in regard to your professional and personal character might be deemed by you acceptable, and I come to offer you mine. I have often witnessed your examinations, and under circumstances which made it my duty to give to them my utmost attention, and it gives me pleasure to say, as I do without reserve, that they have appeared to me entirely satisfactory, and creditable alike to yourself and pupils. This opinion has been confirmed by repeated declarations on the part of those better able to judge of your qualification as a teacher

of the Spanish language than myself, and I have no doubt of its justice.

Whatever grounds may have existed originally for a difference of opinion on the subject, it is too late now to deny your fitness for your present position. Three years of assiduity, devotion to the business of teaching, superadded to a habit of speaking the Spanish language from childhood, must have removed them, and given to you all the qualifications demanded by your official station. These considerations, together with your uniformly gentlemanly character, considerate and conciliatory deportment, and entire abstinence from interference in the affairs of others, have entitled you to the respect of all good men, and shown you to be worthy of the official station entrusted to you by the Government.

With cordial respect, I am, your obedient servant,

W. H. F. BARTLETT,
Prof. Phil., West Point.

WEST POINT, NEW YORK,
March 6, 1861.

To Professor P. DE JAXON, *West Point, N. Y. :*

MY DEAR SIR : I have frequently given you my opinion freely in speaking of the Spanish Department, and I have only to reiterate what I have already told you. If the success you have met with as a teacher (during my connection with your Department) is an indication of your ability to occupy the chair of Professor, I have no hesitation in saying that you have successfully established the fact that you are.

Your discipline is perfect, and I am sure every cadet under your charge has the highest respect and admiration for you as an officer and gentleman.

During an acquaintance of nearly ten years as cadet and officer, I have never found you anything but the high-toned, courteous, amiable gentleman.

I am, very truly, yours,

WESLEY OWENS,
1st Cavalry, U. S. A.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *October 8, 1863.*

Prof. P. DE JANON:

SIR: Having had the privilege of being your assistant at the Military Academy during the months of April and May last, it affords me the greatest pleasure to speak of the proficiency of the students in your sections of the Spanish Department; their knowledge of that language gained under your instruction showed not only a deep interest in the study by the pupil, but also great energy and ability on your part, and a peculiar faculty for imparting information.

Wishing you great future success, I am, very respectfully,

JOHN M. WILSON,
Capt. Engineers, U. S. A.

So stood the balance of evidence at the end of General Delafield's efforts to drive me from the Academy in 1860. The current of opinion in my favor was so strong that the few conspirators despaired of ever being able to break me down by the fabricating of testimony, and I hoped had abandoned the ungenerous work. I aimed to profit, however, by the bitter lesson taught me, and to be even more vigilant in the discharge of my duties, and to guard against the remotest appearance of the faults which the quick-sighted and ready-comprehending scrutiny of General Delafield never failed to see when *I* was before his eyes. I had no more trouble until, without a word of warning, the worst overtook me, and I was on the 14th of September, 1863, hurled from my position at West Point.

Instantly leaving West Point for Washington, to learn wherein I had erred, I was soon after tendered with the following testimonials, bearing upon my qualifications and standing at the time. They are simple and plain:

WEST POINT, N. Y., *September 16, 1863.*

To the Hon. SECRETARY OF WAR:

SIR: As representatives of the first class of the U. S. Military Academy, we beg leave to state that it is with the deepest regret that we learn of the sudden removal of our Professor of Spanish.

We deem it our duty to testify that we have every reason to express our confidence in his ability to teach the Spanish language. Moreover, it has been the testimony of preceding classes, that the instruction in his department has been thorough as that in any other. For, while we become acquainted

with the theory of Engineering, conversant with the principles of Philosophy and Mathematics, acquainted grammatically with the French language, we also learn to speak the *Spanish*.

In conclusion, we would say that there is no one whose character as a gentleman we more highly respect; and that amidst all the annoyances and vexations of the section room, his demeanor toward his pupils has always been marked by the greatest politeness and consideration.

Sincerely hoping that his removal may be reconsidered, we have the honor to be, sir, most respectfully, your obedient servants,

WILLIAM LUDLOW,
GARRETT S. LYDECKER.
ANDREW W. DAMRELL.

WASHINGTON, D. C.,
April 1, 1864.

Prof. DE JANON:

DEAR SIR: It is with deep regret that I learn of your removal from the United States Military Academy. Having been one of your pupils in the Spanish language, I, of course, had ample opportunity to judge of your capacity and ability as a teacher of that language, and I have no hesitation in saying that I consider you eminently qualified in that respect. As a gratifying fact to you, I would add, that among all your former pupils and friends whom I have heard speak, there is but one expression in regard to your removal from the Academy, and that is one of sincere regret.

Hoping you may be soon restored to your position, I am, Professor, your sincere friend,

G. CUSTER,
Brig. Gen. U. S. A.

FOLLY ISLAND, S. C.,
November 26, 1863.

MY DEAR DE JANON: It was with great surprise and grief that I received your letter stating that you had been displaced from your professorship at West Point, and I hasten to assure you of my deep sympathy with you, and my will-

ingness to do anything in my power to aid you. I can bear witness that you did your duty faithfully and competently, while I was studying under you. I learned both to speak and read Spanish under your excellent system of instruction, and shall always be grateful for the trouble you so willingly put yourself to, to explain any difficulties, idioms, &c., that I met with in acquiring the language. As I take great interest in the welfare of the Academy, I am sorry it has lost a Professor so worthy as yourself, and I sincerely hope you may be re-instated. As I am anxious that you should receive this letter as soon as possible, I will close it so as to be in time for the steamer. Give my kindest regards to your wife and daughter, and believe me,

Your sincere friend,

GEO. N. MCKEE,
Lieut. Ordnance Corps.

WEST POINT, NEW YORK,
October 13, 1863.

Prof. P. DE JANON :

MY DEAR SIR : Your letter of the 9th instant has just been received. I don't remember that I was present during your examination of your class in Spanish last June. I can't recall anything about it. Even if I had, as I have no knowledge of the structure of the language, having never taken a lesson in it in my life, my judgment one way or the other would be of little value. I remember, however, hearing Capt. Owens, who was your assistant about two years ago, make the remark that the class then under your tuition were very well grounded in their knowledge of the verbs, &c., the most difficult portion of any language. He was, I believe, a competent judge.

Whatever may be thought of your ability as an instructor of the Spanish language, or your faculty for imparting information, this much every one will concede, that you have been assiduous in the discharge of the important duties devolving upon you, and that at least you have endeavored faithfully to deserve success.

In great haste, very truly yours,

L. V. BENET,
Capt. Ord. Corps, U. S. A.

WILLARD'S HOTEL,
WASHINGTON, *March 17, 1864.*

PROFESSOR DE JANON :

SIR : At your request I hand you this letter, the object of which is to say what I, as a member of the late Board of Visitors to the Military Academy at West Point, ascertained about you—I witnessed the examination of your class in the Spanish language—as well as by my observation, that the examination was in all respects a creditable one to you and your pupils. It was so spoken of by the Board. I had no doubt, by reason of anything I heard or saw, but that you were considered the right person in the right place.

Your intercourse with the members of the Board was pleasant, and left, I believe, a good impression upon them. I shall be happy to hear that the Government has accorded to you the impartial hearing which you desire.

Respectfully,

A. W. CAMPBELL,
Ed. Daily Intelligencer, Wheeling, W. Va.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
WASHINGTON, *Dec. 14, 1863.*

PROF. DE JANON :

DEAR SIR : I am in receipt of a letter from my valued friend, Hon. J. H. Goodenow, of Maine, stating that the Board of Visitors to West Point for the present year had the highest appreciation of the value and efficiency of your labors as Professor of Spanish, and stating that for himself and the other visitors he was very anxious to see you restored to your position.

Mr. Goodenow is a gentleman for whose opinion I have the highest respect.

Very truly yours,

J. G. BLAINE.

WASHINGTON CITY,
March 12, 1864.

To the Hon. E. M. STANTON, *Sec'y of War :*

SIR : Mr. de Janon, late Professor of Spanish at West Point, has, I understand, been recommended for reinstatement.

ment. In connection therewith, I can state that I have been acquainted with the Professor for some time past, his family having resided in Tennessee originally, and have always understood that he was regarded as proficient in the peculiar branch of his instruction.

I have no hesitancy in recommending his reinstatement, if the same is perfectly consistent with the public interests, and in accordance with your views.

Very respectfully, your ob't servant,

ANDREW JOHNSON.

WASHINGTON CITY, *October 12, 1863.*

HON. EDWIN M. STANTON, *Secretary of War:*

DEAR SIR: Meeting with Prof. de Janon, and hearing from him that he had been recently by your order dismissed from his place as Professor of the Spanish language in the United States Military Academy at West Point, I beg to say of him that I regard him as a most upright and honorable gentleman, well qualified to teach the Spanish language, and in all respects, by his gentlemanly deportment and successful instruction, a favorite with the corps of cadets who have passed through his department.

If not wholly inadmissible, I should be much gratified if the case could be so far reconsidered as to enable him to vindicate himself against any charges that may have been preferred against him.

In allowing this much you will be extending a great favor to him, and one who feels deeply wounded by this summary dismissal.

I am, with high regard,

Your friend and obedient servant,

JAMES S. ROLLINS.

ELMIRA, *September 23, 1863.*

PRESIDENT:

P. de Janon, Professor of Spanish at West Point, informs me that he has been summarily dismissed, and that he is applying for re-instatement. I wish to bear testimony to the worth of Professor de Janon. He is a most worthy gentleman. Of course, in his situation, he has accumulated nothing, and is thrown, with a family, upon a world where he is not cal-

culated to fight his way. I do not want to enter upon the causes leading to his dismissal further than to say, if you will allow an investigation, I will be much surprised if it does not show to you that the motives of those procuring this removal were not simply a desire to serve the Government. I beg pardon for intruding upon your time in such a matter, and nothing has induced me to do so but the conviction that a great injustice has been done to a worthy man, and that it would afford you pleasure to give him a chance to place himself where he deserves to stand in your estimation.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

A. S. DIVEN.

His Excellency ABRAHAM LINCOLN,
President U. S.

But finding after much fruitless inquiry that my knowledge of the Spanish language was again called in question, I appealed again to those who are masters of the language for their testimony on the subject. These gentlemen are close at hand, and are competent judges. This is what they say :

NEW YORK, *Sept. 3, 1864.*

P. DE JANON, Esq.

DEAR SIR: Having heard of your removal from West Point, and your efforts to be reinstated in your position there, I deem it my duty to renew to you my opinion expressed in my letter in 1857, in regard to your capacity as Professor of the Spanish language. From the many conversations we have held together in Spanish, and the intercourse we have kept up by letters in the above language, no doubt is left in my mind of your being perfectly qualified to honorably fill the chair of Spanish in any institution.

I remain, dear sir, yours respectfully,

A. J. MORALES,

*Professor of Spanish Language and Literature
in the New York Free Academy.*

CONSULATE OF ECUADOR,
NEW YORK, *September 3, 1864.*

P. DE JANON, Esq., *Present:*

DEAR SIR: It is with deep regret that I have heard of your removal from your office at West Point as Professor of

Spanish. I understand that your knowledge of that language is called in question. My personal acquaintance with you for the last thirty years, and the lively interest I take in your welfare, induce me to say a few words in your behalf. I am happy to be able to state that you speak the Spanish language in all its purity, and it is surprising to me that any doubt should be entertained as to your capacity of teaching that language after six years of successful tuition.

I should be truly happy to hear of the success of your application for re-installment.

I remain, truly yours,

GO. DOMINQUEZ,
Consul.

EGLISE P. EPISCOPALE FRANCAISE,
Du St. Esprit, New York.

Prof. P. DE JANON :

MY DEAR MR. DE JANON: Benumbed at the news you sent me last year, that you had lost the situation you so ably filled during six years at the West Point Academy, I was nearly petrified yesterday when I heard, from a friend, that one of the reasons you were *remercié*, and which is in the way to your being re-installed to the professorship in the same, was and is your imperfect knowledge of our language. Truly, *quand on veut tuer son chien on dit qu' il est enragé*, mad, hydrophob, as an incompetent person to give our future young heroes an intelligent, true, and perfect knowledge of our language and literature. I wish I was the President of the United States, knowing what I know of you, as a gentleman and a scholar, and certain I might vainly search for one better qualified, you would in twenty-four hours, receive back your old commission. If you can make use of this letter in haste, or if you want me to write more on the same subject, let me know and I will do so.

Yours,

C. A. VERREN, D. D.,
Rector of St. Esprit.

NEW YORK, September 3, 1864.

Wishing to get these new testimonials, with others yet at hand, before your Excellency, I sought through you the humble privilege of an investigation, when I had the painful fact

thrust upon me that in the course of official succession General Delafield, my first assailant, the living source of all my trouble, was the person, as head of the Engineering Bureau, who had the privilege to report upon me, as Professor of Spanish. Nothing could gratify him more, or be worse for me. He has made his attack. This is my defence. The facts are before you.

In conclusion, I beg to say a few words as to the general aspect of this case and my position as party to the issue.

I think, in drawing your final conclusion, you cannot fail to observe certain well-established facts which mark the whole case, and are mainly established by General Delafield himself; among which I think your Excellency will not fail to observe that all my troubles had their origin in the Engineering Department, not because of proficiency in my pupils, which was pronounced in favor of by no less than twelve successive Academic Boards and six Boards of Visitors, but started with General Delafield, who now admits that as early as 1856-7, he "made a report on the fitness of Mr. de Janon, then 'SWORD-MASTER,' for the professor of Spanish," and in the same paragraph adds that he had only known me since September, 1856. I was then only an applicant for the professorship of Spanish, a position just created by law, but had not taught Spanish for one moment in the Academy. Therefore, upon or by what standard of measurement or test General Delafield, who is no Spanish scholar, formed his so ready opinion of my ability to teach my native tongue, is more than I or any one can imagine, unless his opinion had its origin in the mere prejudice of caste. It so transpired, however, that the abundant testimonials in my behalf from those who *were* competent to judge of my ability to teach, overcame General Delafield's report, and convinced the President and the Senate of the United States that I was competent to teach Spanish, although I was then and for eleven years had been in the less exalted position of "*sword-master*."

If, however, General Delafield, without the least knowledge of my ability to teach, should be pleased, as he admits he did, to condemn me in advance, it need not be wondered at that I had a severe ordeal to pass through under his hands, as a subordinate officer under him, after I was installed in my office. This fact I fully realized, as from the time General Delafield volunteered his report against me, when he scarcely knew me by sight, but because I was "*sword-master*," down to the period he was removed from the Academy, he never allowed me to see a moment of quiet or escape any annoyance that he could inflict upon me.

Insolent, and more or less contemptuous towards me in his own department, he was the prompting example to my pupils

to be equally so; which, however, I am proud to say for their better manners, was not often the case. On this subject it is clearly shown by General Delafield's own report, now made to your Excellency, that he kept up a constant gossiping intercourse with my pupils, and such others as came in his way, to my prejudice. It was not to be wondered at, therefore, that when an unfortunate youth like Cadet Rodgers should find a willing ear in Superintendent Delafield to listen to and pick up all that a cadet might say when excusing himself from reprimand for a reported dereliction of deportment.

The truth is, the dates given by General Delafield of most of his matters disparaging of me all hang around one narrow circle of time, and looks much like it was a repetition of the same thing, multiplied by the General as often as possible, in order to swell his bill of indictment against me, for he speaks of "mistakes" committed, "errors not noticed," without specifying what they were, to a great extent, all of which ceased the moment General Delafield was not there to see and *privately* note them.

That General Delafield tried to break down my examination in June, 1860, cannot be doubted. Failing in this, when the Board of Visitors reported my examination "creditable" to me and my pupils, General Delafield next organized the D. M. Frost and W. E. Jones summons to the graduating class is certain; and finding my class, as such, would not sustain his purpose, he next had the persistent indecency to order seven cadets to "report to D. M. Frost alone, at the Hotel," and then only noted the statements of *one of these seven*, to wit, Cadet Jones, and could only drum up four in all, and did not allow these four to write their own statements, or have them sign the statement written by D. M. Frost, and in those statements thus extracted from *four* of my pupils, not one word is said about my ability to teach Spanish, but is solely confined to how these cadets chanced to *guess*, to "infer," or to "surmise" what would be the exercises put to them at the examination then to come off only "three days" from that time. And then to cap the climax of malicious impudence, said Frost, as the instrument, and General Delafield as the instigator, did all this in the name of "the Board of Visitors," when both knew there was then, and on that day, (18th June, 1860,) no such "Board" or body in existence, nor had been, in fact, after the signing of them on the 15th June, and that hence the statement that any cadet "appeared before the Board of Visitors" was a falsehood, and the use of the name of "the Board of Visitors" that gave that proceeding coloring was a forgery, by whosoever it was done or sanctioned.

And I will here add, that after all the desperate efforts to ruin me, a special Board of Examiners was sent to West Point, to look into the affairs of the institution, and especially to act upon General Delafield's recommendation to abolish my position, and the blending of the Spanish with the French department, and have but one Professor of modern languages, which Board, composed of seven persons, of whom Senator Foot was one, after spending six or eight weeks watching the course of instruction, reported *against* the abolishing of my chair, and sustained my mode of instruction. But the General did not think of this fact in making his report to your Excellency, or perhaps did not deem it worthy of a place in the tenor of the notes he was making for my future benefit.

I, on the other hand, submit the testimonials of nearly my whole class for 1860, who give their own statements full and clear, signed by themselves, and not written down and signed by "D. M. Frost at the Hotel" for them.

The statement that many who had the good of the Academy at heart were "surprised or heard with concern of my appointment to the Professorship of Spanish," is shown to be untrue, as my application was endorsed by several connected with the Academy, and many others in high position, whose interest in the welfare of the institution is not to be doubted. The surprised persons consisted of General Delafield and a few of his clique, who were, no doubt, astonished more on account of their prejudices and opposition not prevailing, than from any justly apprehended injury to the Academy. They therefore felt it incumbent on themselves to make my efforts at teaching Spanish a failure at all hazards, in order that they might appear right, and to effect this these few were unscrupulous as to means; hence this undertone of gossip about me, so well remembered by General Delafield, and set forth in his report; but the talking consisted principally in General Delafield's asking questions, in order to elicit remarks from others—he himself constituting the centre of this gossiping circle.

As proof of this statement, I need but remark that so soon as General Delafield was removed from the superintendency of the Academy, soon after the special Board of Commissioners made their report in the fall of 1860, there was no more heard of these tattling statements of cadets or others. I should like for your Excellency to see and read the report of the Board of Visitors at my last examination in June, 1863, just before I was dismissed, which was a complete triumph for me, although, as the Hon. J. G. Blain, a Visitor from Maine, tells a friend of mine that there was apparent disposition on the part of one or two persons (the same who co-operated with General Delafield)

to prejudice me in the minds of the Board of Visitors from the time they assembled. This, however, only caused them to notice more closely my examination, and to commend me the more for my success. And no Professor at West Point could be more generally sustained by the expression of opinion of his pupils than has been shown to your Excellency in my behalf.

There is one impression, the creation of which on the part of my accusers, I fear may be resorted to, to mislead your judgment, and that is, that my return to West Point would be distasteful to the official corps. This is not so, and is unjust to me. In my position as I was, and not molested, but sustained like other professors in the discharge of my duties, I will again, as before, when not under the lash of assault, move on in perfect harmony with my co-Professors and the officers of the Academy.

I have thus aimed to present to your Excellency the facts which, with no small degree of humiliation, I have been able to collect from sources and of a character that I can submit them without a blush in vindication of myself, against the unwarranted, if not malignant assault aimed at me by General Delafield, though I feel deeply mortified that I should be driven to the necessity of doing so. It has taken much time, and devolved upon me great labor, but this I could not help, as General Delafield was pleased to multiply so many statements of such a sweeping and general character, never specifying with sufficient particularity to enable me to know precisely what was the real matter of my alleged dereliction of duty, or what were the real errors committed, that I have been forced to enter into a very extended review of my whole connection with the Academy, extending over several years of time. But your Excellency knows how much easier it is to prefer charges than refute them; how much easier to charge crimes than prove innocence.

Attacked at a period remote from the time when the pretended matter occurred, when the means of ready explanation are dimmed by the wear of time, and those whose observation could be appealed to to establish the truth are scattered through the land; and all this because my late official superior, though apprized of all these things, did not feel it his duty *then* to inform me, or subject me to a court of inquiry, has seen fit to hurl them at me now, when he thinks he sees me in a position where the means of defence I once demanded of him are closed against me, because I am out of office and he is in. Not a single charge preferred by General Delafield dates since 1860, and most of them at a much earlier period than that. His charges, if sufficient to dismiss me from office now, were equally sufficient four, five, six, or even eight years ago, and it

was his prescribed official duty to have arraigned me for the purpose, but, strange to say, he did not dare to do so; the reason was that he could never make them good.

The question now is, whether I shall be destroyed by the prejudice of one, or at most about three men, (for I feel sure that is about the number involved,) who were pleased to pent up the vitriol of their secret wrath, for the purpose of pouring it upon my head at a period when they have first, by the force of insinuation, deprived me of that open investigation which my commission as an officer would have entitled me. By such means have I been degraded from office, and against which I now appeal to the nation's President for justice.

Respectfully,

PATRICE DE JANON,
Late Professor of Spanish at West Point.

I beg to present to your Excellency the following petition, signed by forty-three members of the present Congress, asking that I may be restored to my late position of Professor of Spanish at West Point:

WASHINGTON, *March 4, 1864.*

HON. E. M. STANTON, *Secretary of War:*

SIR: We, the undersigned, respectfully beg leave to call your attention to the unfortunate case of Mr. de Janon, late Professor of Spanish at West Point. We feel confident that a reconsideration of his case will show that his re-instatement will be beneficial to the interests of the Academy, inasmuch as the study of the Spanish language is considered important in the course of studies at West Point. The sudden removal of Mr. de Janon from his office has deprived him of his only means of support, and he is reduced, with his wife and children, to a state of destitution. We are satisfied that he is a worthy, faithful, and loyal servant of the Government, and after almost eighteen years of service, we feel that he is entitled to the consideration and protection of the Executive authorities, and earnestly recommend his case to your sense of justice and humanity.

We shall feel much gratified to see him restored to his position, which he has ever filled with profit to the Government and credit to himself.

Senators,

S. Foot.
L. C. Pomeroy.

Wm. Sprague.
Alex. Ramsey.

B. F. Wade.
 M. S. Wilkinson.
 C. Chandler.
 Reverdy Johnson.
 John P. Hale.

L. M. Morrill.
 J. Collamer.
 B. Harding.
 J. H. Lane.
 L. W. C. Clarke.
Ch. Exec. Clerk, U. S. Senate.

Representatives.

Martin Kalbfleisch.
 Francis Kernan.
 Joen V. L. Pruyn.
 Anson Herrick.
 James Brooks.
 D. Norris.
 R. B. Van Valkenburg.
 Thomas F. Davis.
 John Ganson.
 John B. Steele.
 H. A. Nelson.
 Henry G. Stebbins.
 R. E. Fenton.
 S. F. Miller.

W. Radford.
 J. W. Chanler.
 N. Perry.
 W. G. Steele.
 L. D. M. Sweatt.
 C. Dennison.
 Warren P. Noble.
 W. Kellogg.
 Henry T. Blow.
 John F. Farnsworth.
 Lucien Anderson.
 W. H. Randall.
 James S. Rollins, Mo.
 Francis Perea.

Elijah Ward.

Robert C. Schenck,
J. G. Blaine,
G. W. Hotchkiss.

